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(54) Title: METHOD FOR INCREASING VIABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION EFFICIENCY OF BACTERIA DURING STORAGE AT LOW TEMPERATURES			
(57) Abstract			
<p>The invention relates to improved <i>E. coli</i> bacteria with enhanced viability at low temperatures, methods for producing improved bacterial strains capable of enhanced viability at low temperatures, and the isolation and use of genetic material capable of enhancing the viability of bacteria at low temperatures. In addition to the enhanced viability at low temperatures, the bacteria may exhibit enhanced transformation efficiencies after storage at low temperatures. As such, the invention may be used for the insertion of exogenous DNA sequences into the bacteria of the invention.</p>			

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

**METHOD FOR INCREASING VIABILITY AND
TRANSFORMATION EFFICIENCY OF BACTERIA
DURING STORAGE AT LOW TEMPERATURES**

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

The invention relates to stable storage of bacteria at low temperatures (e.g., about 4°C to about -20°C). Specifically, the invention relates to improved bacteria having enhanced viability or enhanced transformation efficiency during storage at low
10 temperatures, methods for producing such bacteria, and the genetic material involved in such enhancement. The invention further relates to such cells made competent for transformation, to methods for making such competent cells, and to methods of transforming such competent cells.

15 CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/014,330, filed March 29, 1996, herein incorporated by reference and of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/025,838, filed September 5, 1996, herein incorporated by reference.

20 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

Extended storage of bacteria is typically accomplished at very low temperatures (-80°C and below). Not only have such very low temperatures been used to store bacteria, but they have also been used to store bacteria made competent for transformation (U.S. Patent No.
25 4,981,797). However, problems are associated with the storage of bacteria and competent bacterial cells at higher temperatures (e.g., about -20°C to about 4°C). At these higher temperatures, bacteria and competent bacterial cells rapidly lose viability and transformation

efficiency. Over a period of several months, the viable cell count and the transformation efficiency of such cells decreases by several orders of magnitude. Bacteria which are competent for transformation can only be stored at 4°C for several days (Dagent *et al.*, *Gene* 6:23-28 (1979)) or for a period of up to 16 days (Pope *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 24(3):536-537 (1996)). Thus, in order to maintain viability and competency, bacteria and competent bacterial cells have typically been stored at -80°C.

Stable storage of bacteria, and particularly competent cells, at temperatures higher than -80°C is highly desirable, since many research laboratories may not have access to very low temperature storage. Moreover, the cost of storing bacteria at -80°C is greater than at higher temperatures, and it is both difficult and expensive to transport bacterial cells at temperatures lower than -20°C.

15. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

The present invention provides a method which allows bacterial cells and competent cells to be stored for extended periods of time at temperatures greater than -80°C (*e.g.*, about -20°C to about 4°C) without appreciably losing transformation efficiency or viability. Thus, the method of the invention provides bacterial cells and competent cells which do not require specialized storage conditions (*e.g.*, extremely low temperatures) to maintain the viability and/or transformation efficiency of such cells.

The method of the invention specifically comprises altering the fatty acid content of the bacteria. Preferably, the unsaturated fatty acid content of the bacteria is altered in accordance with the invention. Preferably, one or more of the fatty acids is increased in the bacteria, and most preferably the fatty acid content is in the bacterial membrane. Preferred methods of altering the fatty acid content includes genetic alteration of the bacteria (*e.g.* by enhancing

expression of one or more genes involved in production (synthesis or catabolism) of one or more fatty acids). Bacteria used according to the invention include both gram positive and gram negative bacteria, although gram negative bacteria such as *Escherichia* are preferred.

5 Particularly preferred bacteria include *Escherichia coli*.

The invention also relates to bacteria having enhanced viability and/or enhanced transformation efficiency after periods of storage at low temperatures (e.g., greater than -80°C, preferably about -20°C to about 4°C). Such storage stable cells comprise an altered fatty
10 acid content. Preferably, the storage stable bacterial cells or competent cells have an increased level or amount of one or more fatty acids, preferably unsaturated fatty acids. Such increased amount of fatty acid content may be caused by genetic alterations, preferably by enhancing expression of one or more genes involved in changing the
15 fatty acid content of the bacteria.

The invention also relates to methods of making the bacteria of the invention competent, to methods of transforming such competent bacterial strains of the invention, and to the bacterial cells of the invention transformed with exogenous DNA. According to
20 the invention, exogenous DNA sequences (e.g., plasmids, cosmids, DNA libraries, cDNA libraries, expression vectors, eukaryotic (particularly mammalian, and most particularly human) DNA, phage DNA, etc.) may be transformed into the novel bacteria of the invention by any of a variety of techniques, including, but not
25 limited to, chemical-mediated transformation, electroporation, and liposome-mediated transformation.

The invention further provides a DNA molecule comprising a sequence capable of enhancing the viability or the transformation efficiency of a bacterium at low temperatures (e.g., greater than -80°C, preferably about -20°C to about 4°C). Such DNA molecule preferably
30 comprises one or more genes involved in the production of one or

more fatty acids in the bacteria. Most preferably, the nucleic acid molecule of the invention allows enhanced production of fatty acids in the bacteria.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

5 Figure 1 shows the viability of *E. coli* DH10B, SB3499A, SB3499B, and SB3499C expressed in terms of cells/ml and after storage of the cells at 20°C.

10 Figure 2 shows the transformation efficiency of *E. coli* DH10B, SB3499A, SB3499B, and SB3499C expressed in terms of transformants per µg DNA after storage of the cells at -20°C.

Figure 3 shows the viable cell counts of DH10B bacteria containing either the cosmid vector pCP13, or cosmid 1 (NRRL B-21550), 2 (NRRL B-21551) or 4 (NRRL B-21552) after those cells are stored at 4°C for periods of time.

15 Figure 4A shows the viable cell counts of DH10B cells containing vector pCP13 and cosmids 1, 2 and 4 over a period of 4 months during which the cells are stored at -20°C.

Figure 4B shows the viable cell counts of DH10B cells cured of clones 1, 2, and 4 after these cells are stored at 4°C for periods of time.

20 Figure 5 shows the viable cell counts of DH10B cells, DH10B cells containing vector pCP13 or cosmid 1, DH10B cured of cosmid 1, DH10B cured of cosmid 1 and retransformed with vector pCP13, or cosmid 1 and DH10B cells containing cosmid 1 after those cells are stored at 4°C for periods of time.

25 Figures 6A and 6B show the viability of the following bacterial strains stored at 4°C: DH5α, DH5α containing the vector pCP13, DH5α containing cosmid 1, STBL2, STBL2 containing the vector pCP13, and STBL2 containing cosmid 1 after those cells are stored at -20°C for periods of time.

Figure 7 shows the transformation efficiencies of the DH10B strain containing cosmid clone 1, and the DH10B strain containing vector pCP13, both stored at -20°C for 5 months.

Figure 8 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either cosmid clone 1, pDELTA2, pDELTA2 8Kb+, pDELTA2 8Kb-, pDELTA2 14Kb+, or pDELTA2 14Kb- plasmid after storage at 4°C.

Figure 9 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either cosmid clone 1, pDELTA2, pDELTA2 8Kb+, pDELTA2 8Kb-, pDELTA2 14Kb+, or pDELTA2 14Kb- plasmid after storage at -20°C.

Figure 10 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either the pDELTA2, pDELTA2 14Kb+, pDELTA2 14Kb- plasmid, or one of eleven deletion derivatives of the pDELTA2 14Kb+ plasmid generated by the Deletion Factory System under sucrose/ampicillin selection after storage at 4°C for various intervals.

Figure 11 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either the pDELTA2, pDELTA2 14Kb+, plasmid, or one of sixteen deletion derivatives of the pDELTA2 14Kb+ generated by the Deletion Factory System under streptomycin/kanamycin selection after storage at 4°C for various intervals.

Figure 12 combines the stability studies outlined in Figures 10 and 11 and presents the length of the insert DNA remaining after deletion of a portion of the insert using the Deletion Factory System.

Figure 13 shows DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 14) of the essential region of cosmid clone 1 (2658 bp).

Figure 14 depicts the open reading frames and location of MluI restriction sites contained within the essential region of cosmid clone 1.

Figure 15 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either the pDELTA2, pDELTA2 32, pDELTA2 *fabB10*, pDELTA2 *fabB13*, pDELTA2 *fabB14*, or pDELTA2 *fabB15* plasmid after storage at 4°C for 9 days.

Figure 16 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either the pDELTA2, pDELTA2 32, pDELTA2 *fabB10*, pDELTA2 *fabB13*, pDELTA2 *fabB14*, or pDELTA2 *fabB15* after storage at -20°C (for approximately 120 days).

5 Figure 17 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either the pDELTA2, pDELTA2 *fabB14*, pDELTA2 14 deletion, pDELTA2 *fabB15* or pDELTA2 15 deletion plasmid after storage at 4°C for up to 30 days.

10 Figure 18 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either the pDELTA2, pDELTA2 *fabB14*, pDELTA2 14 deletion, pDELTA2 *fabB15* or pDELTA2 15 deletion plasmid after storage at -20°C for up to 60 days.

Figure 19 shows the effect of the presence of various *fabB* clones in strains DH5α and DH10B on percent *cis* vaccenic acid levels.

15 Figure 20 shows the effect of the presence of various *fabB* clones in strains DH5α and DH10B on percent unsaturated fatty acids levels.

20 Figure 21 shows the viability of DH5α cells containing either the pCP13, cosmid clone 1, pDELTA2, or pDELTA2 *fabB15* plasmid after storage at -20°C for up to 2 months.

Figure 22 shows the viability of DH10B cells containing either the pCP13, cosmid clone 1, pDELTA2, or pDELTA2 *fabB15* plasmid after storage at -20°C for up to 2 months.

25 Figure 23 shows the correlation that exists between the survival of DH5α and DH10B cells at -20°C for two months and the amount of unsaturated fatty acids found in the cell membrane.

30 Figure 24 shows the correlation that exists between the growth temperature of DH10B, SB3499B, and CY322 cells grown at 23°C, 30°C, 37°C, or 42°C for 16 hours, and the amount of *cis* vaccenate in the cells.

Figure 25 shows the effect of varying growth temperature on the levels of unsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane of DH10B, SB3499B, and CY322 cells grown at 23°C, 30°C, 37°C, or 42°C.

Figure 26 shows the viability of DH10B cells grown at 23°C, 30°C, 37°C, or 42°C after storage at -20°C for up to 2 months.

Figure 27 shows the viability of SB3499B cells grown at 23°C, 30°C, 37°C, or 42°C after storage at -20°C for up to 2 months.

Figure 28 shows the correlation between the total unsaturated fatty acids of the cell membrane and cell survival at -20°C for strains DH10B and SB3499B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

Definitions

In the description that follows, a number of terms used in recombinant DNA technology are utilized extensively. In order to provide a clear and consistent understanding of the specification and claims, including the scope to be given such terms, the following definitions are provided.

DNA Molecule. Any DNA molecule, of any size, from any source, including DNA from viral, prokaryotic, and eukaryotic organisms. The DNA molecule may be in any form, including, but not limited to, linear or circular, and single or double stranded. Non-limiting examples of DNA molecules include plasmids, vectors, and expression vectors.

Cloning vector. A plasmid, phage DNA, a cosmid, or other DNA molecule which is able to replicate autonomously in a host cell, and which is characterized by one or a small number of restriction endonuclease recognition sites at which such DNA sequences may be cut in a determinable fashion without loss of an essential biological function of the vector, and into which a DNA fragment may be spliced in order to bring about its replication and cloning. The cloning vector may further contain a marker suitable for use in the

identification of cells transformed with the cloning vector. Markers, for example, provide tetracycline resistance or ampicillin resistance.

Expression vector. A vector similar to a cloning vector but which is capable of expressing a gene which has been cloned into it, after transformation into a host. The cloned gene is usually placed under the control of (*i.e.*, operably linked to) certain control sequences such as promoter sequences.

Storage Stable. Within the meaning of the present invention, bacterial cells and/or competent bacterial cells which are "storage stable" are able to withstand storage for extended periods of time at a suitable temperature, without appreciably losing their transformation efficiency and/or viability. By the term "without appreciably losing their transformation efficiency and/or viability" is meant that the cells maintain about 40% to 100%, preferably 60% to 100%, more preferably 70% to 100%, and most preferably about 80% to 100% of their original transformation efficiency and/or viability during a storage period of 30 days, preferably 60 days, more preferably 90 days, and most preferably 120 days, at a temperature of -20°C. Suitable storage temperatures for the bacterial cells or competent bacterial cells of the invention vary from about room temperature to about -180°C. Preferably, the storage temperature ranges from about 4°C to about -80°C, more preferably from about -20°C to about 4°C. In a preferred aspect of the invention, the cells are stored at about -20°C. The storage period or time may range from about 0 days to about 180 days (*e.g.*, 6 months), preferably from about 0 days to about 120 days (*e.g.*, 4 months), and more preferably from about 0 days to about 90 days (*e.g.*, 3 months), although longer storage times may be used at temperatures of about -20°C and below.

Fatty Acids. Any fatty acid which is saturated or unsaturated. Unsaturated fatty acids including monoenoic acids, dienoic acids and higher unsaturated fatty acids (*e.g.*, tri, tetra, penta and hexaenoic

acids etc.). Examples of unsaturated fatty acids include but are not limited to oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, cis vaccenic acid, arachidonic acid, palmitoleic acid etc. Examples of saturated fatty acids include butyric acid, lauric acid, palmitic acid and stearic acid.

- 5 Preferred fatty acids in accordance with the invention are unsaturated fatty acid, most preferably cis vaccenic acid and palmitoleic acid.

Competent cells. Cells having the ability to take up and establish an exogenous DNA molecule.

- 10 The present invention relates to a method for enhancing viability or transformation efficiency of a bacterium by altering the fatty acid content (preferably the unsaturated fatty acid content). The invention also relates to a method for obtaining a bacterium having such an altered fatty acid content. The method involves modifying or mutating a bacterium such that the fatty acid content of said
15 bacterium is altered relative to an unmodified or unmutated bacterium. The modified or mutated bacterium having enhanced viability or enhanced transformation efficiency may then be isolated. Selection of such a modified bacterium may be selected by assaying for such enhanced characteristics relative to the unmodified
20 bacterium (see Examples). Preferably, the amount of fatty acid is increased in the bacterium. This increase may be accomplished by various techniques, for example, by adding one or more fatty acids to the bacterium or by genetically modifying the bacterium. Any type of genetic modification may be used in accordance with the invention,
25 including natural selection, artificial mutation and genetic engineering. Such techniques are well known in the art. Common genetic engineering techniques include cloning one or more fatty acid genes in a vector to increase copy number, or enhancing translation or transcription of such genes by, for example, overexpression (e.g.,
30 using an expression vector).

The method of the invention provides for the production of cells which have enhanced viability and/or enhanced transformation efficiency upon storage at low temperatures (e.g., greater than -80°C, preferably about -20°C to about 4°C). Such storage stable strains may be stored for extended periods at various temperatures. According to the invention, alteration of the content of one or more fatty acids results in enhanced viability or enhanced transformation efficiency. Alteration of the fatty acid content can be accomplished in any bacteria to provide bacteria having these beneficial characteristics. Preferably, such bacteria are modified genetically.

Both gram negative and gram positive prokaryotic cells (e.g., bacteria) can be used in accordance with the invention. Examples of suitable prokaryotic cells include, but are not limited to, *Escherichia* sp., *Klebsiella* sp., *Salmonella* sp., *Bacillus* sp., *Streptomyces* sp., *Streptococcus* sp., *Shigella* sp., *Staphylococcus* sp., and *Pseudomonas* sp. Non-limiting examples of species within each aforementioned genus that can be used in accordance with the invention include *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Streptomyces aureus*, *Streptococcus mutans*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *Pseudomonas syringae*.

In a preferred embodiment, the cells which can be used in the invention are *Escherichia*, most preferably *E. coli*. Non-limiting examples of *E. coli* strains include DH5, DH5 α , DH10, DH10B, HB101, RR1, JV30, DH11S, DM1, DH10B/p3, DH5 α MCR, DH5 α F'IQ, DH5 α F', SCS1, Stbl-2, DH12S, DH5 α -E, DH10BAC, XL1-Blue MRF, XL2-Blue MRF, XL1-Blue MR, SURE Strain, SURE 2 Strain, XL1-Blue, XL2-Blue, AG1, JM101, JM109, JM110/SCS110, NM522, TOPP Strains, ABLE Strains, XL1-Red, BL21 Strains, BJS183 TK B1 Strain, and derivatives thereof.

As used herein, a "derivative" of a specified bacterium is a progeny or other recipient bacterium that contains genetic material

obtained directly or indirectly from the specified bacterium. Such derivative bacterium may, for example, be formed by removing genetic material from a specified bacterium and subsequently introducing it into another bacterium (*i.e.*, the progeny or other recipient bacterium) (*e.g.*, via transformation, conjugation, electroporation transduction, etc.). Alternatively, such derivative bacterium may possess genetic material (produced synthetically, via cloning, via *in vitro* amplification, etc.) having the effective sequence of genetic material of the specified bacterium.

10 The bacteria of the invention having altered fatty acid content may be made competent for transformation using well known techniques. Such competent bacterial cells have, according to the invention, enhanced transformation efficiency upon or after storage at low temperatures (*e.g.*, greater than -80°C, preferably about -20°C to about 4°C). Transformation, in the context of the current invention, is the process by which exogenous DNA is inserted into a bacterium, causing the bacterium to change its genotype and/or phenotype. Such a change in genotype or phenotype may be transient or otherwise. Exogenous DNA is any DNA, whether naturally occurring or otherwise, from any source that is capable of being inserted into any organism. Preferably, exogenous DNA is any DNA, whether naturally occurring or otherwise, from any source that is capable of being inserted into bacteria. Such exogenous DNA includes, without limitation, plasmid DNA, cosmid DNA, eukaryotic (particularly mammalian, and most particularly human) DNA, DNA libraries, cDNA libraries, expression vectors and phage DNA (such as bacteriophage lambda DNA).

30 A number of procedures exist for the preparation of competent bacteria and the introduction of DNA into those bacteria. A very simple, moderately efficient transformation procedure for use with *E. coli* involves re-suspending log-phase bacteria in ice-cold 50 mM

calcium chloride at about 10^{10} bacteria/ml and keeping them ice-cold for about 30 min. Plasmid DNA (0.1 mg) is then added to a small aliquot (0.2 ml) of these now competent bacteria, and the incubation on ice continued for a further 30 minutes, followed by a heat shock of
5 2 minutes at 42°C . The bacteria are then usually transferred to nutrient medium and incubated for some time (30 minutes to 1 hour) to allow phenotypic properties conferred by the plasmid to be expressed, e.g., antibiotic resistance commonly used as a selectable marker for plasmid-containing cells. Protocols for the production of
10 competent bacteria have been described (Hanahan (*J. Mol. Biol.* 166: 557-580 (1983); Liu *et al.*, *Bio Techniques* 8:21-25 (1990); Kushner, In: *Genetic Engineering: Proceedings of the International Symposium on Genetic Engineering*, Elsevier, Amsterdam, pp. 17-23 (1978); Norgard *et al.*, *Gene* 3:279-292 (1978); Jessee *et al.*, U.S. Patent 4,981,797);
15 Maniatis *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1982).

Another rapid and simple method for introducing genetic material into bacteria is electoporation (Potter, *Anal. Biochem.* 174: 361-73 (1988)). This technique is based upon the original observation
20 by Zimmerman *et al.*, *J. Membr. Biol.* 67: 165-82 (1983), that high-voltage electric pulses can induce cell plasma membranes to fuse. Subsequently, it was found that when subjected to electric shock (typically a brief exposure to a voltage gradient of 4000-16000 V/cm), the bacteria take up exogenous DNA from the suspending solution,
25 apparently through holes momentarily created in the plasma membrane. A proportion of these bacteria become stably transformed and can be selected if a suitable marker gene is carried on the transforming DNA (Newman *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 197: 195-204 (1982)). With *E. coli*, electoporation has been found to give plasmid
30 transformation efficiencies of 10^9 - 10^{10} T/ μg DNA (Dower *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 16: 6127-6145 (1988)).

Bacterial cells are also susceptible to transformation by liposomes (Old and Primrose, In: *Principles of Gene Manipulation: An Introduction to Gene Manipulation*, Blackwell Science (1995)). A simple transformation system has been developed which makes use of liposomes prepared from cationic lipid (Old and Primrose, In: *Principles of Gene Manipulation: An Introduction to Gene Manipulation*, Blackwell Science (1995)). Small unilamellar (single bilayer) vesicles are produced. DNA in solution spontaneously and efficiently complexes with these liposomes (in contrast to previously employed liposome encapsidation procedures involving non-ionic lipids). The positively-charged liposomes not only complex with DNA, but also bind to bacteria and are efficient in transforming them, probably by fusion with the cells. The use of liposomes as a transformation or transfection system is called lipofection.

The present invention also concerns genetic material capable of enhancing the viability and/or transformation efficiency of said bacterium at low temperatures. In particular, the invention concerns isolated nucleic acid molecules which allow alteration of fatty acid content when introduced into a bacterium. Preferably, the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more genes involved in changing fatty acid content of said bacterium. Such genetic material is preferably contained in a cloning or expression vector. In one aspect of the invention, the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more genes which enhance the level of one or more fatty acids. Preferably, the genes enhance unsaturated fatty acid levels. Such unsaturated fatty acids include, but are not limited to, oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, cis vaccenic acid, and palmitoleic acid. Such genes include but are not limited to *fabB*, *fabF*, *fabD*, *fabG*, *fabA*, *fabH*, *fabI*, *fabZ*, *fadA*, *fadB*, *fadE*, *fadL*, *fadR*, *farR*, *fatA*, etc.

The viable cell count of cells produced by the method of the invention will remain at greater than about 1×10^6 cells/ml,

preferably greater than about 1×10^7 cells/ml, more preferably greater than about 1×10^8 cells/ml and most preferably greater than 1×10^9 cells/ml when stored at -20°C for any time period from about 0 days to about 1 month, preferably from about 0 days to about 3 months, and more preferably from about 0 days to about 6 months. These cells will retain a transformation efficiency of at least about 1×10^5 , preferably at least about 1×10^6 , more preferably at least about 1×10^7 , still more preferably at least about 1×10^8 and most preferably at least about 1×10^9 transformants per microgram of DNA (T/ μg). Suitable storage temperatures vary from about room temperature to about -180°C . Preferably, the storage temperature ranges from about 4°C to about -80°C , more preferably from about -20°C to about 4°C . In a preferred aspect of the invention, the cells are stored at about -20°C . The storage period or time may range from about 0 days to about 1 month, preferably from about 0 days to about 3 months, still more preferably from about 0 days to about 6 months, and still more preferably from about 0 days to about 1 year, although longer storage times may be used at temperatures of about -20°C and below. Competent cells produced by the method of the invention may be stored at -20°C for at least 3 months while retaining substantially their transformation efficiency. Substantial retention of transformation efficiency means that the cells will have a transformation efficiency after storage that is about 40% to 100%, preferably at about 60% to 100%, more preferably about 70% to 100% and most preferably about 80% to 100% of the transformation efficiency of the competent cells tested prior to storage.

The invention also pertains to transforming the competent bacterial cell produced according to the method of invention. Transforming said competent cells comprises obtaining a competent bacterial cell of the invention, mixing said cell with a DNA molecule, and incubating said mixture under conditions sufficient to transform

said cell with said DNA molecule. According to this aspect of the invention, the competent cell may be any gram positive or gram negative bacteria including, but not limited to, *Escherichia*, *Klebsiella*, *Salmonella*, *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, *Streptococcus*, and *Pseudomonas*.

- 5 Preferably, gram negative prokaryotic cells are transformed according to the method of the invention, more preferably *Escherichia*, and most preferably *E. coli*. According to the invention, any DNA molecule (e.g., vectors, plasmids, phagemids, expression vectors, etc.) may be used.

- 10 After the cells have been transformed with the DNA molecule of interest, the transformed cells may be grown in a growth conducive medium. Typically, such a growth conducive medium contains an antibiotic to assist in selection of transformed cells. That is, the DNA molecule to be transformed may contain a selective
15 marker (e.g., an antibiotic resistance gene), allowing selection of transformed cells when the corresponding antibiotic is used in the medium.

- The invention also concerns a method of producing a desired protein by transforming a competent cell of the invention with a
20 DNA molecule encoding said desired protein. Thus, the invention concerns a method of producing a desired protein comprising obtaining a competent cell produced according to the invention, transforming said cell with a DNA molecule capable of expressing said desired protein, and culturing said transformed cell under
25 conditions sufficient to produce said desired protein. Cells which can be used according to this aspect of the invention including both gram negative and gram positive bacteria, preferably *Escherichia*, and most preferably *E. coli*. In this aspect of the invention, the cells are transformed by mixing the cells with a DNA molecule and
30 incubating the mixture under conditions sufficient to transform said cell with said DNA molecule. Transformed cells may be selected

according to techniques well known in the art including, for example, selection for marker genes on the DNA molecule (e.g., antibiotic resistance genes). After the transformed cell has been selected, the cell may then be cultured according to well known techniques in a growth conducive medium. Upon culturing the cell under appropriate conditions, the cell is capable of producing the desired protein. The desired protein may then be isolated, and a substantially pure protein obtained by well known protein purification techniques.

Having now generally described the invention, the same will be more readily understood through reference to the following examples which are provided by way of illustration, and are not intended to be limiting of the present invention unless specified. All patents, patent applications and publications mentioned herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

15

Example 1 Generation of Mutant Strains by Cycling

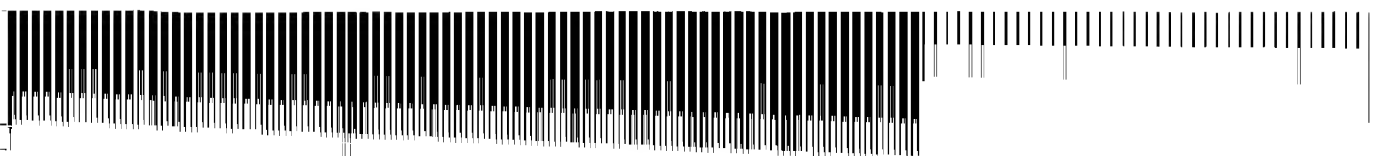
A common technique in microbial genetics is the generation of mutant strains of bacteria utilizing recycling. This technique is dependent on a rapid rate of bacterial killing under some unfavorable condition. In this particular case, the storage of *E. coli* strain DH10B in CCMB80 buffer at -20°C results in the rapid killing of the strain and the subsequent decrease in the viable cell count over a period of 6 months. The survivors which remain after 6 months storage at -20°C are again regrown and stored at -20°C in CCMB80 buffer. After 4 cycles under these particular conditions single colonies are tested for survival at -20°C. The isolated strain was designated SB3499.

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Example 2 Preparation of Competent Cells

A single colony isolate of *E. coli* strain DH10B and three single colony isolates of *E. coli* SB3499 (Example 1) (designated SB3499A

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(NRRL B-21606), SB3499B (NRRL B-21607), and SB3499C (NRRL B-21608) respectively, each deposited on August 1, 1996, under the terms of the Budapest Treaty governing Microbiological Deposits) were selected. Competent cells of these isolates were made according to the method of Jessee, J. and Bloom, F.R., U.S. Patent No. 4,981,797, herein incorporated by reference. Essentially the process is as follows: The single colony isolates of DH10B, SB3499A, SB3499B, and SB3499C were each inoculated into 2 ml of 15/10 medium (1.0% Bacto tryptone, 1.5% Bacto yeast extract, 10 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM MgSO₄, 0.001 % polypropylene glycol (PPG)) and shaken overnight at 275 rpm at a temperature of 30°C. A 0.3 ml aliquot of each overnight culture was used to inoculate a 500 ml baffled flask containing 60 ml 15/10 medium. The resulting cultures were grown by shaking them at 275 rpm at a temperature of 30°C until the O.D.₅₅₀ of the cultures was approximately 0.3. A 50 ml aliquot of the culture was harvested by centrifugation of that aliquot at 2,000 rpm and 4°C, for a sufficient time to pellet the bacterial cells. The bacterial cell pellets were then resuspended in 4 ml of ice cold CCMB80 buffer (10 mM potassium acetate pH 7.0, 80 mM CaCl₂, 20 mM MnCl₂, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10% glycerol adjusted to pH 6.4 with 0.1 N HCl, as described in Hanahan, *et al.*, *Methods in Enzymology*, 204:63-113 (1991), herein incorporated by reference. The resuspended bacterial cells were then kept on ice for 20 minutes. The resuspended bacterial cells were then divided into 250 µl aliquots and frozen in a dry ice/ethanol bath for at least 5 minutes. All but one aliquot of each isolate was stored at -20°C for a specified period of time prior to a determination of its viability and its transformation efficiency.

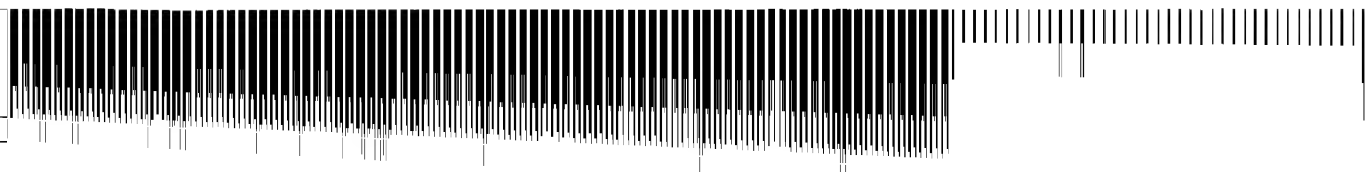
Viability and Transformation Assays

Aliquots containing competent cells prepared according to Example 2 were tested after a specified period of storage at -20°C to determine the viability and transformation efficiency of that aliquot.

- 5 Aliquots were either tested immediately or at monthly intervals after storage at -20°C.

To determine the viability of an aliquot, the aliquot was removed from -20°C and placed on ice for approximately 15 minutes. The aliquot was serially diluted using 0.85% NaCl. Dilutions were
10 then plated on LB agar plates (Gibco/BRL) to determine viable cell counts. Figure 1 shows the viability of *E. coli* DH10B, SB3499A, SB3499B, and SB3499C. The viable cell counts of SB3499A, SB3499B and SB3499C were over 100 fold higher than DH10B after these cells were stored for between 2-4 months at -20°C.

- 15 To determine the transformation efficiency of an aliquot, the aliquot was removed from -20°C and placed on ice for approximately 15 minutes. The cells were assayed for transformation efficiency using plasmid pUC19, according to the method of Hanahan, *J. Mol. Biol.* 166: 577 (1983), herein incorporated by reference. Figure 2 shows
20 the transformation efficiency of *E. coli* DH10B, SB3499A, SB3499B, and SB3499C expressed in terms of transformants per µg DNA. The transformation efficiency of DH10B cells decreased to less than 1.0×10^5 transformants/µg DNA after one month of storage at -20°C. The transformation efficiencies of SB3499A, SB3499B, and SB3499C were
25 greater than 3.0×10^6 transformants/µg DNA after four months of storage at -20°C. Therefore isolates SB3499A, SB3499B and SB3499C exhibit substantially higher viable cell counts and transformation efficiencies than DH10B after prolonged storage at -20°C.



**Genetic Characterization of *E. coli* DH10B, SB3499A,
SB3499B, and SB3499C**

The SB3499A, SB3499B and SB3499C isolates were evaluated for genetic markers that are characteristic of *E. coli* DH10B. Table 1 shows the characteristic genetic markers for the SB3499A, SB3499B, and SB3499C isolates of the *E. coli* strain DH10B. The genetic markers which were evaluated for strains SB3499A, SB3499B and SB3499C are identical to the genetic markers of DH10B. MacConkey galactose plates are made using Difco MacConkey agar containing 1% galactose. X-gal IPTG plates were made using LB agar containing 50 µg/ml X-gal and 1 mM IPTG. Minimal agar plates were made by adding 100 ml of stock I (20 g ammonium chloride, 60 g potassium phosphate (monobasic), and 120 g sodium phosphate (dibasic), diluted to 1 liter with distilled water), 60 ml of stock II (60 g glucose, and 1.3 g magnesium sulfate heptahydrate diluted to 600 ml with distilled water), 20 ml of stock III (0.735 g calcium chloride dehydrate diluted to 200 ml with distilled water) and 1 ml 0.1% thiamine to 12 g of Bacto agar and adjusting the final volume to 600 ml. For plates containing leucine, 100 µl of a 1.5% solution of leucine was spread on the plates.

Table 1 Analysis of Genetic Markers				
Culture Medium	Bacterial Strain			
	DH10B	SB3499A	SB3499B	SB3499C
Minimal	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth
Minimal + Leucine	Growth	Growth	Growth	Growth
MacConkey Galactose	White Colonies	White Colonies	White Colonies	White Colonies
LB + Nitrofurantoin 8 µg/ml	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth
LB + Ampicillin 100 µg/ml	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth
LB + X gal-IPTG	White Colonies	White Colonies	White Colonies	White Colonies
LB + Naladixic Acid	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth
LB + Kanamycin 50 µg/ml	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth
LB + Chloramphenicol 10 µg/ml	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth
LB + Tetracycline 15 µg/ml	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth	No Growth

Example 5 Genomic DNA Isolation

Genomic DNA isolation is described by Lin and Kuo, *Focus* 17: 66-70 (1995), herein incorporated by reference. *E. coli* strain BRL 3433 (Life Technologies, Inc.) was streaked on LB plates and incubated overnight at 37°C. A single bacterial colony was isolated and

resuspended in 5 ml LB broth (10 grams tryptone, 5 grams yeast extract, 5 grams NaCl per liter) and then further incubated at 37°C/275 rpm in a shaking incubator overnight. A 1.0 ml aliquot of the cultured cells was transferred into a microcentrifuge tube and the cell pellets are collected by centrifuging at 11,000 x g for 5 minutes at room temperature. The pellets were resuspended in 1 ml TES-sucrose buffer [8% sucrose, 50 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), and 1 mM EDTA] and incubated at 25°C for 5 minutes with 1 mg/ml lysozyme. A volume of 100 µl of 10% SDS was added to the tube and the tube was briefly vortexed. The DNA was extracted with phenol-chloroform and precipitated with 0.3 M sodium acetate and 1 volume of isopropanol. The solution was centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. The pellet was washed with 70% ethanol and centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. To eliminate RNA contamination, the DNA pellet was resuspended with 200 µl TE buffer and then treated with 1 µg/ml RNase A at 37°C for 10 minutes. The sample was then extracted with phenol-chloroform and the DNA was precipitated with 0.3 M sodium acetate and 2.5 volumes of 100% ethanol. The solution was then centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 15 minutes at 4°C. The DNA pellet was washed with 70% ethanol and centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 10 minutes at room temperature. After washing the DNA pellet, it was dissolved in 100 µl TE buffer.

Example 6

Construction of Cosmid Genomic Library of *E. coli* Strain

100 µg DNA of genomic DNA isolated from BRL 3433 (Example 5) was mixed with 10x React 2 (Life Technologies, Inc.) and sterilized distilled water in order to obtain a final concentration of 100 µg/ml DNA in 1x React 2 buffer and in a final reaction volume of

1000 μ l. The genomic DNA sample was aliquoted into 9 microtubes with the first tube containing 200 μ l of genomic DNA and the other 8 tubes containing 100 μ l of the genomic DNA. A 5 μ l aliquot was removed from the last tube (tube 9) and was saved as an un-treated control.

10 units of the restriction endonuclease PstI (Life Technologies, Inc.) was added to tube one. A two fold serial dilution was set up as follows: 100 μ l of the sample (including enzyme) was transferred from tube one to the second tube, and so on, in order to obtain a series of 2 fold dilutions of PstI concentrations in tubes containing equal concentrations of genomic DNA (10 μ g DNA per tube). Finally, 100 μ l from the tube 9 was transferred into an additional tube (numbered 10). All 10 tubes were incubated at 37°C for exactly 1 hour, and immediately stored at -20°C until use.

All ten tubes were thawed on ice and a 5 μ l aliquot from each tube in the serial dilution series was compared to the 5 μ l un-cut control by agarose gel electrophoresis (0.9% agarose gel) in order to elucidate the extent to which the genomic DNA was digested. The serial dilution sample or samples, which contained the highest percentage of DNA fragments in the range of 25 to 45kb estimated by agarose gel electrophoresis according to the method set out in Maniatis *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1982), was chosen to construct the cosmid library. These chosen aliquot or aliquots were extracted twice with phenol and then ethanol precipitated with 2.5 volumes of 100% ethanol and centrifuged at 11,000 g for 30 minutes. The DNA pellet was washed with 200 μ l 70% ethanol and centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 10 minutes. The resulting partially digested genomic DNA pellet (termed "genomic digest

DNA") was resuspended in 15 μ l 1x T4 DNA ligase buffer (Life Technologies, Inc.).

5 μ g of BJS80 (pCP13) cosmid vector was incubated for 4 hours at 37°C with 30 units of *Pst*I (Life Technologies, Inc.) in 1x React 2 (Life Technologies, Inc.) in a final volume of 50 μ l. The reaction mix containing the cosmid vector was then ethanol precipitated with 2.5 volumes of 100% ethanol and centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 30 minutes. The resulting DNA pellet was washed with 200 μ l 70% ethanol and then centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 10 minutes. The washed pellet was
10 finally resuspended in 50 μ l of 1x React 2 buffer (Life Technologies, Inc.). A 1 μ l aliquot of calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase ((1 unit/ μ l) (Life Technologies, Inc.)) was mixed with the pre-cut cosmid vector and incubated at 37°C for more than 30 minutes to remove the 5' phosphate. A 5 μ l aliquot of the sample was electrophoresed on a
15 0.9% agarose gel to confirm that the sample was linear according to the method of Maniatis *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning, a Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1982). The remainder of the sample was then phenol extracted twice and ethanol precipitated with 2.5 volumes of 100% ethanol and
20 centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 30 minutes. The resulting DNA pellet was washed with 200 μ l of 70% ethanol and then centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 10 minutes. The washed pCP13 cosmid vector was then resuspended in 15 μ l 1x T4 DNA ligase buffer (Life Technologies, Inc.) and stored at -20°C until needed.

25 The stored cosmid vector was thawed on ice. 15 μ l of thawed vector (100 ng/ μ l) was added to 15 μ l of *Pst*I digested "genomic digest DNA" (600 ng/ml) and 1 μ l of 1 unit/ μ l T4 DNA ligase ("ligation reaction mixture") (Life Technologies, Inc.). The "ligation reaction

mixture" was incubated overnight at room temperature and stored at -20°C until needed.

The ligated DNA was packaged by utilizing the λ packaging kit (the MaxPlax Packaging Extract) from Epicentre Technologies, 1207
5 Ann Street, Madison, WI53713. The packaging procedure was as described in the manufacture's instructions, herein incorporated by reference. The reaction was essentially as follows: from the MaxPlax kit, one tube of freeze thawed sonicate extract, stored at -70°C, was thawed at room temperature. To the thawed extract was immediately
10 added 5 μ l of the "ligation reaction mixture" (about 2 μ g template DNA). After the sample was centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 2 seconds it was incubated at 22°C for 2 hours. After incubation, 500 μ l of phage buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, and NaOH to pH 8.3) was added to the sample. A 200 μ l aliquot was removed from
15 the sample and used to infect DH10B cells ((Life Technologies, Inc.) (Hanahan *et al.*, *Methods in Enzymology*, 204: 63-111 (1991), herein incorporated by reference)) as described below ("retained phage stock"). The remainder of the sample was mixed with 15 μ l chloroform and stored at 4°C as a phage stock for future use.

20 From an overnight culture, a 200 μ l aliquot of a culture of DH10B was used to inoculate 25 ml of LB medium. The cells were grown at 37°C shaking at 275 rpm. When the cell density reached O.D.₅₉₀ 0.5, the cells were centrifuged at 11,000 g for 2 minutes and then resuspended in 2 ml of 10 mM MgSO₄. 200 μ l of the "retained
25 phage stock" was mixed with a 150 μ l aliquot of DH10B cells. The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. After the incubation, 700 μ l of SOC medium (Life Technologies, Inc.) was added to the sample and the sample was then incubated at 37°C for an additional hour. 100 μ l aliquots of the sample was spread on freshly prepared

LB+Tet15 agar plates (LB agar plates containing 15 µg/ml tetracycline). The bacteria were grown overnight at 37°C.

Ten separate colonies were selected. Each colony was placed in a separate tube containing 3 ml of LB medium. These tubes were placed at 37°C overnight. Cosmid DNA was isolated by the mini-prep method as described in Maniatis *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1982). Confirmation of the cosmid DNA was carried out by digesting the cosmid DNA with *Pst*I according to manufacturers instructions. The average size of the genomic inserts was 20 kb or larger.

The remaining bacteria from the 10 plates were pooled and suspended in 20 ml CG medium (CIRCLE GROW, Bio101, Inc., Cat # cp-1000C). After pooling of the bacteria, glycerol was mixed with the suspended bacteria to a final glycerol concentration of 10% glycerol (v/v). The mixture was divided into 5 ml aliquots and stored at -70°C as the cosmid library glycerol stock for future use.

The number of clones in a cosmid library was calculated by removing one of glycerol stocks and then thawing the stock on ice. The number of bacterial cells was determined by removing a 100 µl aliquot from the thawed stock and diluting that aliquot based on the expected number of bacterial cells (10^{11} cells/ml). Based on the expected number of cells, 100 µl of the sample diluted 10^4 , 10^3 , and 10^2 fold were plated on three LB+Tet15 agar plates (LB agar plates containing 15 µg/ml tetracycline) and grown at 37°C overnight. From the plated samples, it was possible to calculate that the cosmid library was 10^{11} cells/ml in its glycerol stock.

Example 7
Selection of Stability Cosmid Clones

A 20 μ l aliquot of the BRL 3433 cosmid library (initial viable cell count 1.0×10^5 cells/ml) was used to inoculate 5 ml of 15/10 medium (1.0% (w/v) Bacto Tryptone, 1.5% (w/v) Bacto Yeast Extract, 10 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM $MgSO_4$, 0.001% polyethylene glycol) and 100 μ g/ml kanamycin. The bacteria were incubated at 30°C for 18 hours. The bacteria were harvested by centrifuging the bacteria at 3,000 rpm for 10 minutes at 4°C. The bacteria were then resuspended in 0.5 ml cold CCMB80 buffer (80mM $CaCl_2$, 20mM $MnCl_2$, 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 10 mM potassium acetate, and 10% (v/v) re-distilled glycerol), stored on ice for 20 minutes and then frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath. The cells were then thawed prior to storage at 4°C. The viable cell count of the bacterial cells was determined by diluting the cells in 0.85% NaCl and plating those dilutions on LB plates. The plates were then incubated at 37°C overnight and the colony count was determined.

After storing aliquots of the cells for 36 days at 4°C, the viable cell count of stored cosmid library clones was determined. Viability declines from an initial value of 2.5×10^8 cells/ml to 1.6×10^5 cells/ml. Individual colonies that survived 36 days at 4°C were isolated by diluting the stored cosmid clones. The diluted cosmid clones were plated on LB plates and then incubated overnight at 37°C. Individual colonies were randomly selected. Cosmid DNA was purified from the isolated colonies. The cosmid DNA was analyzed by digesting with *Pst*I, according to the manufacturer's instructions. (Life Technologies, Inc.) and three isolates were retained for additional analysis and labeled cosmid clones 1 (NRRL B-21550, deposited March 28, 1996, Agricultural Research Service Culture Collection (NRRL), 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, USA), 2 (NRRL

B-21551, deposited March 28, 1996, Agricultural Research Service Culture Collection (NRRL), 1815 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, USA), and 4 (NRRL B-21552, deposited March 28, 1996, Agricultural Research Service Culture Collection (NRRL), 1815
5 North University Street, Peoria, Illinois 61604, USA).

Example 8
Characterization of Cosmids Clones 1, 2 and 4

DH10B bacteria containing either cosmid clone 1, 2, 4 or cosmid vector pCP13 were incubated in 2 mls of 15/10 medium for 16 hours
10 at a temperature of 30°C. From these cultures, a 0.3 ml aliquot was used to inoculate 50 ml of 15/10 medium and kanamycin at 10 µg/ml in 500 ml baffled shake flasks. The flasks were incubated at 30°C in a shaking incubator at 275 rpm until the optical densities of the cultures were between 0.335 and 0.399 (O.D.₅₅₀). The bacterial cultures
15 were harvested by centrifugation. The resultant pellets were resuspended in 4 ml of cold CCMB80 buffer and kept on ice for 20 min. 250 µl aliquots of the resuspended samples were placed in 1.0 ml Nunc cryovials and those tubes were then frozen in a dry ice/ethanol bath. Aliquots of these cells were assayed for
20 transformation efficiency according to the method of Hanahan (*J. Mol. Biol.* 166: 557-580 (1983) and viable cell counts were made. The vials were then placed at -20°C for the stability study. The remaining aliquots were thawed and retained at 4°C for additional analysis.

Figure 3 shows that the viable cell count of DH10B containing
25 the vector pCP13 decreased over time at 4°C from approximately 5.0×10^8 cells/ml to approximately 1.0×10^5 cells/ml over a period of 40 days. In contrast, DH10B containing cosmid clones 1, 2 or 4 were more stable and only showed a decrease of approximately 50 fold in the viable cell count over the same period of time.

Figure 4 shows that the viable cell counts of DH10B cells containing vector pCP13 decreased 1000 fold over a period of 4 months when the cells are stored at -20°C. In contrast, DH10B cells containing cosmid clone 1 show a decreased viability of 50 fold over the same period. Figure 4 also demonstrated that DH10B cells containing cosmid clones 2 or 4 showed a 10 fold improvement in survival compared to DH10B pCP13 cells and that cosmid clone 1 improved the viable cell count 100 fold.

Example 9

10 Loss of Cosmid 1 Results in a Loss of Low Temperature Stability and Retransformation of DH10B with Clone 1 Restores Low Temperature Stability

The cosmid clones were cured from the DH10B cells using coumermycin, as described by Danilevskaya and Gragerov, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 178: 233-235 (1980), herein incorporated by reference. A 20 µl aliquot of DH10B cosmid clone 1, DH10B cosmid clone 2 and DH10B cosmid clone 4 cells stored at 4°C was inoculated into 1 ml SOB - Mg medium (Life Technologies, Inc.). The cells were grown at 37°C for 16 hours. The cells were diluted to approximately 1.0×10^4 cells/ml in SOB - Mg medium. One ml aliquots of the cells were cultured in the presence of 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 µg/ml coumermycin for 16 hours at 37°C. The cultures which were grown in the presence of 4 µg/ml coumermycin were then streaked on LB plates and the colonies were screened for the ability to grow in the presence and absence of kanamycin. Cells which showed no growth in the presence of kanamycin have lost cosmid clone 1.

One kanamycin sensitive colony from each culture was then grown in 5 ml of 15/10 medium at 30°C for 4 hours. The bacterial cells were centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 10 minutes and resuspended in 0.4 ml of cold CCMB80 buffer. The cells were kept on ice for 20 minutes and then frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath. After freezing, the

cells were thawed and placed at 4°C. Viable cell counts were taken at day 0, day 5 and day 11.

Figure 4B shows that the viable cell count of cells cured with respect to cosmid clone 1, clone 2 or clone 4 decreased as rapidly as DH10B cells or DH10B cells containing pCP13 and failed to display the stability at 4°C seen in the cultures containing cosmid clones 1, 2, or 4. Curing cosmid clone 1 from the DH10B cells resulted in the rapid loss of viability when the cells were placed in CCMB80 buffer at 4°C.

To assess whether the reintroduction of cosmid clone 1 into the cured DH10B cells would restore stability, competent cells of DH10B which had been cured of cosmid clone 1 were prepared.

Cosmid clone 1 as well as cosmid pCP13 were then retransformed into competent cells of the DH10B strain which had been cured of cosmid clone 1 using the method of Hanahan (*J. Mol. Biol.* 166: 557-580 (1983)). Max efficiency DH10B competent cells lot FA4104 (Life Technologies, Inc.) were also transformed with cosmid clone 1 and pCP13. The transformed cultures were plated on LB plates containing 50 µg/ml kanamycin and incubated at 30°C. Competent cells of DH10B containing pCP13 and DH10B containing cosmid clone 1 as well as competent cells of DH10B were prepared as follows: DH10B containing vector pCP13 and DH10B containing cosmid clone 1 were grown in 50 ml of 15/10 medium containing 50 µg/ml kanamycin until the cells were at an O.D.₅₅₀ of between 0.244 and 0.258. DH10B cells were grown in 15/10 medium without kanamycin. The cells were harvested by centrifugation and were then resuspended in 4 ml cold CCMB80 buffer. After resuspension, the cells were kept on ice for 20 min. The cells were then frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath, thawed and placed at 4°C.

Viable cell counts were determined at intervals for the cells stored in CCMB80 buffer at 4°C. Figure 5 shows that the viable cell count of DH10B cells or DH10B containing the vector pCP13 cells

decreased rapidly from approximately 1.0×10^8 cells/ml to approximately 1.0×10^5 to 1.0×10^6 cells/ml over a period of approximately 16 days. On the other hand the presence of cosmid clone 1 resulted in a 100 fold increase in the number of viable cells/ml. These results also indicate that the reintroduction of cosmid clone 1 into DH10B cells cured of cosmid clone 1 (which are unstable at 4°C) again improves stability of these cells at 4°C . Figures 6A and 6B show that the introduction of cosmid containing stability genes for storage in low temperature into DH5 α and STBL2 (Trinh *et al.*, *Focus* 16: 78-80 (1994) cells enhanced viability of those cell lines at 4°C .

Example 10

Increases in Transformation Efficiency Due to Presence of Clone 1

Figure 7 shows that DH10B strain containing cosmid clone 1 stored at -20°C for three months exhibits an enhanced transformation efficiency (greater than 100 fold) compared with DH10B containing the vector pCP13 similarly stored. After 3 months at -20°C , DH10B containing the vector pCP13 cells exhibited a transformation efficiency of less than 1.0×10^5 Transformants/ μg . In contrast, DH10B cells containing cosmid clone 1 exhibited a transformation efficiency of $> 1.0 \times 10^6$ Transformants / μg .

Example 11

Isolation of DNA Fragments of Clone 1 Responsible for Increased Viability and Transformation Efficiency

Cosmid Clone 1 contains a 22Kb insert which was shown to substantially improve low temperature stability in several strains of *E. coli*. The 22 Kb insert in cosmid clone 1 was digested using the restriction endonuclease PstI and 2 fragments of 14Kb and 8Kb were isolated. These two fragments were subsequently cloned into the plasmid vector pDELTA2 (the plasmid vector utilized in the

generation of nested deletions described below) at its PstI site. The restriction maps of both subclones were deduced by digesting the plasmid DNA with either HindIII or EcoRI. These two subclones were designated pDELTA2 14Kb and pDELTA2 8Kb respectively, based on their size. To distinguish the orientation of pDELTA2 14Kb and pDELTA 8Kb, the plasmids having the opposite orientations were designated pDELTA2 14Kb+ and pDELTA1 14Kb- and pDELTA2 8Kb+ and pDelta2 8Kb-.

Example 12

10 Subcloning 14 and 8Kb Fragments of Clone 1 into pDELTA2

To determine which of the subclones is able to stabilize DH10B cells stored at 4°C or -20°C, the pDELTA2 plasmid containing the 14Kb subclone in either orientation (pDELTA2 14 Kb+ and pDELTA2 14 Kb-) and the pDELTA2 plasmid containing the 8 Kb subclone in either orientation (pDELTA2 8 Kb+ and pDELTA2 8Kb-) were transformed into competent cells of *E. coli* strain DH10B. Transformants were selected on LB plates containing 50 ug/ml kanamycin at 30°C. Single colonies of DH10B cosmid clone 1, DH10B pDELTA2, DH10B pDELTA2 8Kb+, DH10B pDELTA2 8Kb-, DH10B pDELTA2 14 Kb+, and DH10B pDELTA2 14Kb- were picked from the LB kanamycin plate into 2 ml of 15/10 medium containing 50ug/ml kanamycin and the cultures were incubated with shaking at 30°C for 16 hours. 0.3 ml of the overnight cultures were inoculated into 60 ml of the same medium and the cultures were incubated at 30°C 275 rpm. The optical density was monitored and at an OD 550nm of approximately 0.3 (0.26 to 0.307), 50 ml of the cell culture was collected by centrifugation for 10 min at 4°C in an IEC clinical centrifuge. The cell pellets were resuspended in 4 ml of cold CCMB80 buffer and the cells were allowed to remain on ice for 20 min. 250 ul aliquots were vialled in chilled NUNC cryovials and the vials were frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath. The vials were stored at -70°C until assay and then

the vials were shifted to a -20°C freezer for the stability study. The remainder of the cells (approximately 2 ml) in CCMB80 buffer were frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath, thawed on ice for 10 min and assayed for the viable cell count. The remainder of the cells were then stored at 4°C for the stability study. At intervals vials were removed from the -20°C freezer for determination of the viable cell count. In addition, the cells stored at 4°C were also assayed for viable cell count. The results are presented in Figures 8 and 9. The data presented in Figure 8 indicate that the 14 Kb subclone in either orientation (plasmids pDELTA2 14Kb+ and pDELTA2 14Kb-) substantially improves the stability of the DH10B strain when stored at 4°C. On the other hand the 8 Kb subclone does not improve the stability of the cells. In addition, the 14 Kb subclone in either orientation also improves the stability of the cells stored at -20°C (Figure 9). This finding demonstrates that the stability gene found in cosmid clone 1 resides on the 14 Kb subclone.

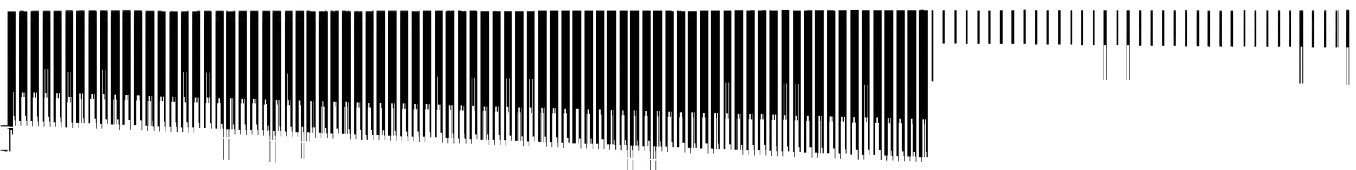
Example 13

Generation of Deletion Factory Derivatives to Localize the DNA Fragments Responsible for Stability

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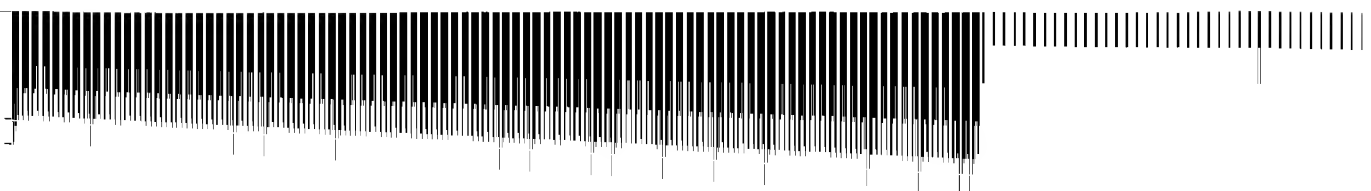
To narrow the region in plasmid pDELTA2 14Kb+ which results in greater stability of DH10B cells stored at 4°C, the Life Technologies Inc. (Rockville MD) Deletion Factory™ System was utilized. This system generates a series of nested deletions of varying length in the 14Kb insert in plasmid pDELTA1 14Kb+. The Deletion Factory System was used following the recommendations of the manufacture.

The clones were selected based on their resistance to ampicillin and sucrose or their resistance to kanamycin and streptomycin. thirty-six different clones were selected from each selection and the



plasmid DNA was isolated based on the same procedure as for cosmid clone1. The plasmid DNA from all 72 different clones for both selections were digested by PstI. This digestion linearized the plasmid DNA without cutting out the insert from the vector because
5 one of the PstI cloning sites was lost during the generation of the deletion clones. The linearized plasmid DNA was separated on a 1% agarose gel with the 1kb ladder (Gibco/BRL) as a standard. The size of each clone was calculated based on the 1kb ladder following Sambrook et al. 1989. A representative sample of the clones, based on
10 the size of the insert DNA, were selected for further analysis of their ability to stabilize DH10B cells stored at 4C.

Eleven deletion derivatives of plasmid pDELTA2 14Kb+ in strain DH10B which had been generated on agar plates containing 5% sucrose and 100 ug/ml ampicillin were picked into 2 ml of 15/10
15 medium containing 100 ug/ml ampicillin and the cultures were grown for 16 hours at 30°C. DH10B containing plasmid pDELTA2, DH10B containing plasmid pDELTA 14Kb+ and DH10B containing plasmid pDELTA2 14Kb- were also grown in the same medium. 25 ul of the overnight cultures were inoculated into 5 ml of the same
20 medium in a 50 ml Falcon tube and the tubes were shaken at 30°C 275 rpm for 3 hours. The cells were collected by centrifugation for 10 min 4°C 2500 rpm in an IEC HN SII centrifuge. The cell pellets were resuspended in 400 ul of cold CCMB80 buffer. The cells were allowed to remain on ice for 20min. The cells were frozen in a dry ice ethanol
25 bath for 5 minutes and thawed on ice for 15 minutes. The viable cell count was determined by dilution in 0.85% saline. The cells were placed at 4°C for the stability study. At intervals, the viable cell count was determined and the results are presented in Figure 10. The data indicate that the plasmids assort into 2 distinct classes: those which
30 stabilize the DH10B cells and those which do not. Among the plasmids which stabilize DH10B cells are plasmids 16, 18, 27 and 32.



Among the plasmids which do not stabilize the DH10B cells are plasmids 14, 19, 23, 28, 29, 33 and 34. As controls the plasmid pDELTA2 does not stabilize the DH10B cells whereas plasmids pDELTA2 14Kb+ and plasmids pDELTA2 14Kb- stabilize the DH10B
5 cells. In particular, note plasmid 32 (hereafter referred to as pDELTA2 32). This plasmid is the smallest plasmid derived from pDELTA2 14Kb+ (using the Deletion Factory System) which is capable of stabilizing DH10B cells at 4°C.

To assess which of the plasmids still contained the gene or
10 genes which improves stability of DH10B cells stored at 4°C, 16 deletion derivatives of pDELTA2 14 Kb+ in strain DH10B which had been isolated on agar plates containing 100 µg/ml streptomycin and 50 µg/ml kanamycin were picked into 2 ml 15/10 medium containing 50 µg/ml kanamycin and were grown overnight at 30°C.
15 25 µl of the overnight cultures were inoculated into 5 ml of the same medium in 50 ml Corning tubes (Fisher cat # 05-539-6) and the tubes were shaken at 30°C 275 rpm for 3 hours. The cells were collected by centrifugation for 10 min 4°C 2500 rpm using an IEC HN SII centrifuge and the cell pellets were resuspended in 400 µl of cold
20 CCMB80 buffer. The cells were allowed to remain on ice for 20 min. The cells were frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath for 5 min, thawed on ice, and the viable cell count was determined. The tubes were placed at 4°C for the stability study. At intervals the viable cell counts were determined and the results are presented in Figure 11. The data again
25 indicate that the plasmids assort into 2 distinct classes: those plasmids which improve the stability of the DH10B cells and those plasmids which do not. Among the plasmids which stabilize the DH10B cells are plasmids 3, 10, 12, 16, 20, 23, and 31. Among the plasmids which do not stabilize the DH10B cells are plasmids 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 21, 32, 35, and
30 36. As above, plasmid pDELTA2 does not stabilize the DH10B cells stored at 4°C whereas plasmid pDELTA2 14Kb+ does stabilize the

cells. In particular note plasmid 16 (hereafter referred to as pDELTA2 16). This plasmid is the smallest plasmid from this screen which is capable of stabilizing DH10B cells at 4°C.

5 Figure 12 combines the stability studies outlined in Figures 10 and 11 and presents the length of the insert DNA remaining after deletion of a portion of the insert using the Deletion Factory System. Figure 12 illustrates that use of the Deletion Factory System narrows the region containing the stability gene to an insert size of approximately 2.5 KB.

10 **Example 14**
Localization and Sequence of Stability/Transformation Gene
on Cosmid Clone 1

Deletion clones 16 and 32 delimited a region of essential sequence approximately 2500 bases long. Primers complementary to 15 the vector and adjacent to the deletion ends of these clones were used to sequence into the essential region. For clone 16 primer T7-25 (CGA CTC ACT ATA GGG AAC TGA TCC T)(SEQ ID NO.: 1) was used and for clone 32 primer SP6-25 (GAT TTA GGT GAC ACT ATA GAG ATC C)(SEQ ID NO.: 2) was used.

20 DNA sequencing was performed using the method of cycle sequencing with [α -³⁵S]dATP (Murray, V. (1989) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 17, 8889, herein incorporated by reference). The sequence obtained from clone 16 was 302 bases long and the sequence obtained from clone 32 was 169 bases long. A BLAST Search was performed using BLASTN 25 with each piece of sequence. A strong match ($P(N)=2.8 \times 10^{-40}$) was found between clone 16 sequence and the region of DNA 141 bases downstream of the *E.coli* gene *fabB* which encodes for beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase I (accession number M24427). Clone 32 gave a weak match ($P(N)=0.47$) with a region of *Haemophilus influenzae* DNA 30 936 bases upstream of the *fabB* gene (accession number U32775 L42023). This region in *E. coli* was not yet in the database. From the

known *E.coli* DNA sequence in the *fabB* region, sequencing primers were designed along each strand at roughly 300 base intervals. Dye terminator sequencing was performed using an ABI 373A Stretch Sequencer. Additional primers were designed to extend the sequence

5 from clones 16 and 32 until all sequence data were able to be assembled into one contiguous piece. The additional sequence primers included: "from 32" CCA CAT ATC CGG GTT TTT CGC TG (SEQ ID NO: 3); "fab46" GAG GTT GGC AGG TTG TAT GGA GT (SEQ ID NO: 4); "fab470" TAT GGA GCA GGC AAT CGC TGA TG

10 (SEQ ID NO: 5); "fab1176" CGT GAA GTG TTC GGC GAT AAG AG (SEQ ID NO: 6); "fab1510" AAT GCG GCC TCC GGC ACT AAC AC (SEQ ID NO: 7); "from 16" GGT TAC GGT GCG TTG GCA GGA TT (SEQ ID NO: 8); "fab1104°C" TAT CAA CGC CAT GCA TCG CCA TC (SEQ ID NO: 9); "fab68C" ACT CCA TAC AAC CTG CCA ACC TC

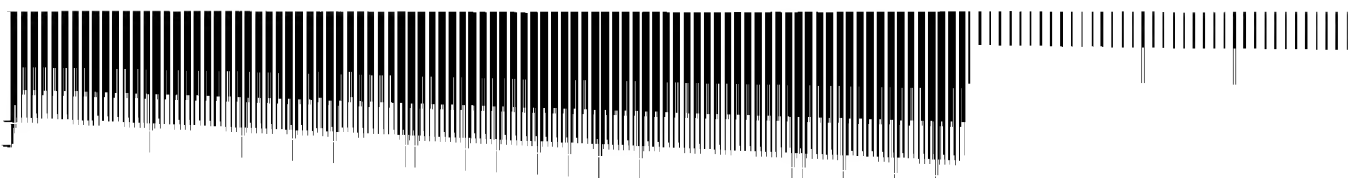
15 (SEQ ID NO: 10); "fab796" CTG GCG GCG GCG AAG AG (SEQ ID NO: 11); "fab150" AAA TGG CTG ATC GGA CTT GTT (SEQ ID NO: 12); "fab865C" TCC GGG GTG TCG TTG TATT (SEQ ID NO: 13). Sequencher 2.0 (Gene Codes Corp.) was used to assemble the data. The sequence of the significant region of clone 1 (SEQ ID NO: 14) is

20 shown in Figure 13.

The *fabB* region of *E.coli* strain DH10B was amplified using 1.1x Elongase Supermix (LTI) and primers at positions 39 (TAAATTCGAGGTTGGCAGGTT) (SEQ ID NO: 15) and 1592 (AATCGACAAAGCGGGAAGTT) (SEQ ID NO: 16) in the M24427

25 sequence. The cycling conditions were 30 cycles of (95°C for 30 seconds, 55°C for 75 seconds and 72°C for 2 minutes) followed by a single incubation at 72°C for 10 minutes. The PCR product was purified by digesting with Exonuclease I (Adamczky, J.J., Jr. (1995) *Editorial Comments* 22, 36, herein incorporated by reference.) and

30 precipitating with isopropanol (Brow, M.A.D. (1990) in *PCR Protocols*:



A Guide to Methods and Applications (Innis, M.A., Gelfand, D.H., Sninsky, J.J., and White, T.J., eds.) p. 194, Academic Press, San Diego.

The pellet was redissolved in the initial volume of 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 5 mM NaCl, 0.1 mM EDTA. Again dye terminator

5 sequencing was performed using an ABI 373A Stretch Sequencer and primers from the list above. The sequence alignment program Align Plus (Scientific and Educational Software) was used to compare the sequences derived from clone 16 and DH10B to show that they were identical over the region sequenced.

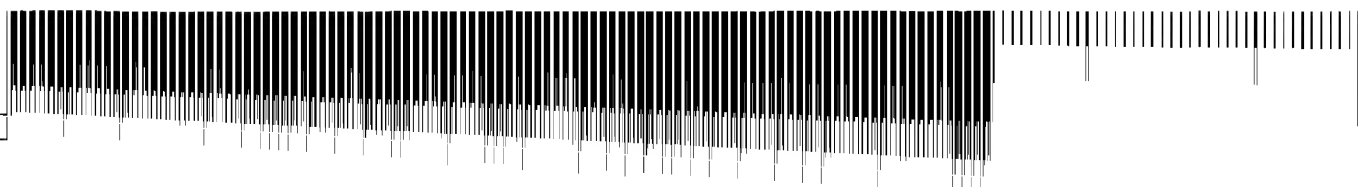
10 In the sequence from Figure 13, the essential region of clone 1 contained several open reading frames in addition to *fabB*. Deletions were made to confirm that the function was correlated specifically with the *fabB* gene (see below). Open reading frames greater than 100 amino acids in the essential region of clone 1 are as follows:

ORF	Bases	Number of Amino Acids
1 (<i>fabB</i>)	1043-2263	406
2	1900-1133	255
3	488-24	154

15 Figure 14 depicts the open reading frames and the location of the MluI restriction sites on the approximately 2500 bp essential region of cosmid clone 1.

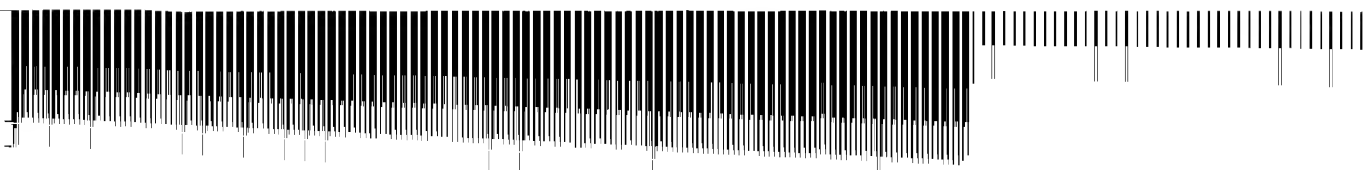
From the sequencing data presented above, the *fabB* gene can be identified as one potential gene which stabilizes the *E. coli* cells
20 stored in CCMB80 buffer at 4°C or -20°C.

To further evaluate the ability of the *fabB* gene to enhance the stability of *E. coli* strains stored at -20°C, the *fabB* gene from pDELTA2 32 was subcloned into plasmid pDELTA2. Previous data (Tsay J. *et al.* J. Bact 174: 508-513 1992) indicated that the entire *fabB* gene could be



subcloned as a 1.8Kb MluI fragment. pDELTA2 32 DNA was digested with MluI at 37°C for 2 hours. The digestion reaction was electrophoresed on a 1% agarose gel in TAE buffer and the 1.8Kb fragment was purified using GlassMax (Gibco BRL) following the protocol from the manufacturer. Plasmid pDELTA2 was digested with MluI at 37°C for 3 hours and treated with alkaline phosphatase at 37°C for 1 hour. Sodium dodecylsulfate was added to 0.5% followed by proteinase K to 50 µg/ml. The reaction was incubated at 37°C for 1 hour and then extracted with phenol chloroform. The DNA was precipitated and resuspended in 10 mM Tris (pH 7.5) 1 mM EDTA buffer. The 1.8Kb MluI fragment was then ligated with the MluI cut alkaline phosphatase treated pDELTA2 vector DNA using T4 DNA Ligase at room temperature for 16 hours. The ligation reaction was then used to transform Max Efficiency DH10B competent cells (Gibco BRL) according to the directions of the manufacturer. Colonies selected on LB plates containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin at 37°C were then grown for 16 hours 37°C in LB medium containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and plasmid DNA was isolated. The plasmid DNA was digested with MluI and screened for the presence of the 1.8Kb MluI fragment. 4 plasmids (numbered 10, 13, 14 and 15) containing the 1.8Kb MluI fragment were selected for further study. The plasmid DNA was further screened for the orientation of the MluI fragment by digesting the plasmid DNA with BglI. Gel electrophoresis of the digested fragments indicated that clones 10 and 15 contained the MluI fragment in one orientation and clones 13, 14 contained the MluI fragment in the opposite orientation.

To evaluate the ability of these plasmids containing a cloned MluI insert derived from plasmid pDELTA2 32 to encode the enzymatic function characteristic of *fabB* gene product, the plasmids designated clones 10, 13, 14 and 15 (as well as plasmids pDELTA2 32 and pDELTA2) were introduced into an *E. coli* strain which contains



a mutation in the *fabB* gene. Specifically the strain contains the *fabB15(ts)* allele which encodes a temperature sensitive *fabB* gene product. The mutation results in the ability of the strain to grow at 30°C but not at 42°C. The strain was obtained from the *E. coli* Genetic
5 Stock Center at Yale University and was given the designation CGSC5641. Competent cells of this strain were prepared as follows: Several colonies of CGSC5641 were picked from an LB plate grown at 30°C into 50 ml of SOB medium and the flask was shaken at 30°C 275 rpm.

10 When the optical density at 550 nm reached 0.308 the cells were collected by centrifugation for 10 min at 4°C 2500 rpm in an IEC HN SII centrifuge. The cell pellet was resuspended in 4 ml cold CCMB80 buffer and the cells were placed on ice for 20 min. 250 ul of the cells were aliquoted into chilled NUNC tubes and the tubes were
15 frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath. The vials were stored at -80C. Several tubes of the competent cells were removed from the -80C freezer and were thawed on ice for approximately 15 min. 100 ul of the competent cells were transformed with 5 ul of plasmid DNA: pDELTA2 , pDELTA2 32 , clone 10, clone 13, clone 14, clone 15
20 according to published procedures (Hanahan J. Mol. Biol. 166: 557-580 (1983)). The cells were expressed at 30°C for 1 hour after addition of SOC. After the expression period, 100 ul of the cells were plated on LB plates containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and the plates were incubated at either 30°C or 42°C. If colonies appear on the plates at
25 both 30°C and 42°C then the plasmid has provided the enzymatically active *fabB* gene product which is defective at 42°C in the *E. coli* strain CGSC5641. If colonies only appear on the ampicillin plates at 30°C, then the plasmid has failed to provide the active *fabB* gene product. Table 2 shows the results of the complementation of the *fabBts*
30 mutation.

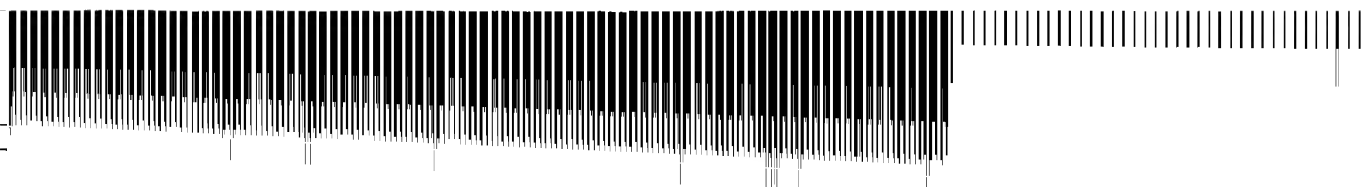


Table 2				
Strain	Number of Ampicillin Resistant Colonies			
	30°C		42°C	
			0	0
pDELTA2	130	109	23	31
Clone 32	24	22	151	160
Clone 10	162	207	179	150
Clone 13	185	181	137	132
Clone 14	147	152	207	213
Clone 15	205	244		

The results in Table 2 indicate that transformation with the pDELTA2 plasmid only results in ampicillin resistant colonies at 30°C indicating that the pDELTA2 plasmid does not encode an active *fabB* gene product. Transformation with plasmid pDELTA2 32, clone 10, clone 13, clone 14 and clone 15 results in ampicillin resistant colonies at both 30°C and 42°C indicating that these plasmids encode a wild type *fabB* gene product. Therefore clones 10, 13, 14, and 15 which contain insert DNA of 1.7Kb (including 1.2 KB of the coding sequence of *fabB*) express an active *fabB* gene product. These clones are hereafter referred to as pDELTA2 *fabB*10, pDELTA2 *fabB*13, pDELTA2 *fabB*14 and pDELTA2 *fabB*15.

To evaluate the ability of these plasmids designated pDELTA2 *fabB*10, pDELTA2 *fabB*13, pDELTA2 *fabB*14 and pDELTA2 *fabB*15 to improve the stability of DH10B cells stored at 4°C and -20°C, 5 ul of each of the plasmids were transformed into Max Efficiency DH10B competent cells (lot# HFK701) according to directions provided by the Manufacturer. Plasmids pDELTA2 and pDELTA2 32 were also transformed as controls. Transformants were selected on LB agar plates containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin at 30°C. The next day one ampicillin resistant transformant from each transformation was picked into 2 ml of 15/10 medium containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and the cultures were shaken for 16 hours at 30°C. 0.25ml of each overnight culture was inoculated into 60 ml of the same medium in

a 500ml baffled shake flask and the cultures were shaken at 30°C 275 rpm in a New Brunswick floor shaker. The optical density was monitored at 550 nm and the cultures were harvested when the optical density reached 0.26-0.32. 50 ml of the cultures were centrifuged for 10 min at 4°C in an IEC bench top centrifuge and the pellets were resuspended in 4 ml of cold CCMB80 buffer. The cells were incubated on ice for 20 min. The cells were divided into 2 2 ml portions. One 2 ml portion was frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath for 5 minutes. The cells were then thawed on ice. The viable cell count was determined using serial dilution in 0.85% NaCl. The cells were then placed in a 4°C refrigerator. The second portion of the cells was processed as follows: 250 ul of the cells were vialled in NUNC cryovials and the vials were frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath. One tube of cells was used to determine the viable cell count and the remainder of the vials were placed in a -20°C freezer. At intervals the viable cell count was determined from cells stored at 4°C. In addition, tubes were removed from storage at -20°C for determination of the viable cell count. The results are presented in Figures 15 and 16. As seen in Figure 15 the viable cell count for DH10B cells containing the plasmid pDELTA2 decreased 100 fold after 9 days storage at 4°C. The viable cell count of the DH10B cells containing plasmid pDELTA2 32 (the source of the MluI fragment used in the cloning of the *fabB* coding sequence) decreased only 8 fold over the same period of time and thus resulted in a 30 fold enhancement in the viable cell count compared to DH10B cells containing the plasmid pDELTA2. DH10B cells containing the pDELTA2 *fabB* clones 10, 13, 14, and 15 also showed enhanced survival relative to DH10B cells containing vector pDELTA2 by 30-60 fold. Therefore the clones containing the *fabB* coding sequence resulted in enhanced survival of DH10B cells at 4°C.

As seen in Figure 16, both plasmids pDELTA2 32 and pDELTA2 *fabB* clones 10, 13, 14, and 15 also result in enhanced survival of DH10B cells when the cells are stored at -20°C. The *fabB* clones resulted in a 400-700 fold enhancement in the viability of DH10B cells relative to the viability of the DH10B cells containing the plasmid pDELTA2.

In order to provide more evidence that plasmids which express an active *fabB* gene product enhance stability of DH10B cells stored at 4°C and -20°C, the coding sequence of *fabB* on plasmids pDELTA2 *fabB* 14 and pDELTA2 *fabB* 15 was interrupted by deletion of an approximately 750 bp fragment. Plasmid DNA from pDELTA2 *fabB* 14 and pDELTA2 *fabB* 15 (encoding an enzymatically active *fabB* gene) were digested with Kpn2I at 55°C for 1 hour. PinAI was then added and the reaction was incubated for a further 1 hour at 37°C. The digestion reaction was electrophoresed on a 1% agarose gel with TAE buffer. A 9Kb fragment isolated from the gel was purified with GlassMax (Gibco BRL) and the purified DNA was resuspended in TE buffer. The ends of the 9Kb fragment were ligated with T4 DNA ligase at room temperature for 16 hours. The ligation reaction was used to transform Max Efficiency DH10B competent cells with selection on LB plates containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin at 37°C. Colonies were picked from the plate into LB medium containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and the cultures were grown for 16 hours at 37°C. Plasmid DNA was isolated, digested with MluI and BglI and analyzed by gel electrophoresis. Two plasmids, designated pDELTA2 14 deletion and pDELTA2 15 deletion, were shown to be lacking the 750 bp fragment.

To determine if deletion of the 700 bp fragment resulted in loss of the *fabB* gene product, plasmids pDELTA2, pDELTA2 *fabB* 14, pDELTA2 *fabB* 15, pDELTA2 14 deletion and pDELTA2 15 deletion

were transformed into competent cells of CGSC5641 (*fabB15ts*). The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3				
Clone	Number of Ampicillin Resistant Colonies		Number Screened	Number Temperature Resistant
	42°C	30°C		
<i>fabBts</i>	0	0	--	--
+pDELTA2	1	123	20	0
+clone 14	114	123	20	20
+clone 15	288	360	20	20
14 deletion	0	56	20	0
15 deletion	0	221	20	0

Table 3 shows the results of the transformation of CGSC5641 (*fabB15ts*) competent cells with pDELTA2, pDELTA2 *fabB14*, pDELTA2 14 deletion, pDELTA2 *fabB15* or pDELTA2 15 deletion plasmid. Transformation of plasmid pDELTA2 into competent cells of CGSC5641 results in ampicillin resistant colonies only at 30°C indicating that the pDELTA2 plasmid does not encode a functional *fabB* gene product.

Transformation of plasmids pDELTA2 *fabB14* or pDELTA2 *fabB15* into competent cells of CGSC5641 result in ampicillin resistant colonies at both 30°C and 42°C indicating that plasmids pDELTA2 *fabB14* and pDELTA2 *fabB15* encode a functional *fabB* gene product. Transformation of plasmids pDELTA2 14 deletion or pDELTA2 15 deletion result in ampicillin resistant colonies only at 30°C indicating that these plasmids do not encode a functional *fabB* gene product. Therefore, deletion of approximately 750 bp of the *fabB* coding region results in an inability to complement a *fabBts* mutation.

MluI sites are at positions 768 and 2436. The deletions in *MluI14Δ* and *MluI15Δ* were confirmed by sequencing across the juncture with the *fab470* primer (SEQ ID NO: 5). The 3' end of the

fab470 primer is positioned at 1298 bases in the our *fabB* gene sequence. The deletions should remove bases 1310 through 2033. Typically, approximately the first twenty bases of sequence 3' of the primer are not readable, so using this primer the first readable base would be at about 1318 in the *fabB* sequence if there were no deletion, and at about 2041 if the deletion was present. Since the readable sequence begins at 2041 for both clones the deletions are as expected. The Sequence of clones *MluI14Δ* and *MluI15Δ* from primer fab470 (SEQ ID NO.: 17) are as follows:

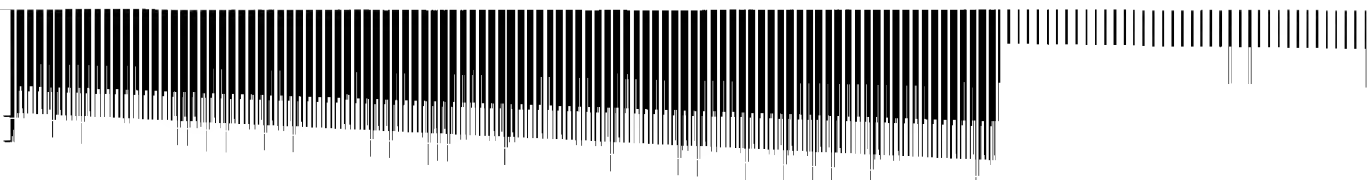
10 ²⁰⁴¹CTCTCTGGGCGCTGCTGGCGTACAGGAAGCTATCTACT
 CTCTGCTGATGCTGGAACACGGCTTTATCGCCCCGAGCATCAAC
 ATTGAAGAGCTGGACGAGCAGGCTGCGGGTCTGAACATCGTGA
 CCGA²¹⁶⁹

15 To determine whether disruption of the *fabB* coding sequence reduces the ability of the plasmids to stabilize DH10B cells, the plasmids pDELTA2, pDELTA2 *fabB14*, pDELTA2 *fabB15*, pDELTA2 14 deletion, and pDELTA2 15 deletion were transformed into Max Efficiency DH10B lot HFK701. The transformants were plated on LB plates containing ampicillin at 100 μg/ml at 30°C for 16 hours.

20 Single colonies from each transformation were picked into 2 ml 15/10 medium containing ampicillin at 100 μg/ml and the cultures were shaken at 30°C for 16 hours. 0.25 ml of the overnight culture were inoculated into 50 ml of the same medium and were grown to an optical density at 550 nm of 0.27 to 0.30. The cells were collected by

25 centrifugation for 10 min 4°C 2500 rpm in an IEC HN SII centrifuge and the cell pellet was resuspended in 4ml cold CCMB80 buffer. The cells were placed on ice for 20min and 250ul of cells were vialled in chilled NUNC cryovials. The cells were frozen for 5 min in a dry ice ethanol bath and were placed in a -20°C freezer. The remainder of

30 the cells were frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath, thawed and placed at



4°C. Viable counts were determined by serial dilution in 0.85% saline. At intervals viable counts were determined after various periods at either 4°C or -20°C.

The results are presented in Figures 17 and 18. Figure 17 shows that the viable cell count of DH10B cells containing the pDELTA2 plasmid stored at 4°C in CCMB80 buffer declines over a period of 30 days from 1×10^8 cells/ml to 1×10^5 cells/ml. The viable cell count of cells containing plasmid pDELTA2 *fabB* 14 or pDELTA2 *fabB*15 is approximately 100 fold higher than cells containing the pDELTA2 vector. These results indicate that a plasmid which contains a functional *fabB* gene significantly enhances the stability of DH10B cells stored at 4°C. DH10B cells containing deletion derivatives which interrupt the *fabB* coding sequence (plasmids pDELTA2 14 deletion and pDELTA2 15 deletion) have a substantially lower viable cell count than in DH10B cells containing an intact *fabB* coding sequence. These results indicate that disruption of the *fabB* coding sequence eliminates the ability of these plasmids to stabilize DH10B cells. The viable cell counts of DH10B pDELTA2 14 deletion and pDELTA2 15 deletion are slightly higher than the viable cell counts of DH10B pDELTA2 cells. These results may indicate a slight increase in the *fabB* gene product (from the intact *fabB* gene in the chromosome of strain DH10B) in cells which contain plasmids with interrupted *fabB* coding sequence possibly due to regulatory effects of these plasmids. Figure 18 indicates that DH10B cells containing pDELTA2 plasmid stored at -20°C for 60 days show a marked instability with a 3 log decrease in viable cell count. The presence of a functional *fabB* gene product (due to the presence of plasmids pDELTA2 *fabB*14 or pDELTA2 *fabB*15) results in a 100 fold increase in the viable cell count. Again, the presence of deletion derivatives which interrupt the *fabB* coding sequence results in a slightly higher viable cell count than in cells containing plasmid pDELTA2 but a much lower viable

cell count than cells containing plasmids which encode a functional *fabB* gene product.

These results indicate that the presence of an intact *fabB* gene on a multicopy plasmid improves the stability of DH10B cells when
5 the cells are stored at either 4°C or -20°C.

Example 15 Effect of FabB on Levels of Unsaturated Fatty Acids

One consequence of the cloning and overexpression of the *fabB* gene in *E. coli* is an increase in total amount of unsaturated fatty acids
10 found in membrane phospholipids. This increase is a result of an increase in the *cis* vaccenate level (de Mendoza D. et al. J. Biol Chem 258: 2098-2101 (1983)). To evaluate whether the cloned *fabB* gene causes a similar increase in the *cis*-vaccenate level (and thus an increase in the total amount of unsaturated fatty acids) in DH5 α and
15 DH10B cells, pCP13, cosmid clone 1, pDELTA2 and pDELTA2 *fabB*15 were transformed into competent cells of DH5 α and DH10B and the cells were grown for an analysis of the fatty acids present in the cell membrane. Cells were also analyzed for stability at -20°C in CCMB80 buffer. Transformants were selected at 30°C on LB plates containing
20 50 μ g/ml kanamycin (for pCP13 and cosmid clone 1) or 100 μ g/ml ampicillin (for pDELTA2 and pDELTA2 *fabB*15). Colonies from these plates were inoculated into 2 ml of medium. For DH5 α pCP13 and DH5 α cosmid clone 1 the cells were inoculated into SOB medium containing 50 μ g/ml kanamycin. For DH5 α pDELTA2 and DH5 α
25 pDELTA2 *fabB*15 the cells were inoculated into SOB medium containing 100 μ g/ml ampicillin. For DH10B pCP13 and DH10B cosmid clone 1 the cells were inoculated into 15/10 medium containing 50 μ g/ml kanamycin. For DH10B pDELTA2 and DH10B pDELTA2 *fabB*15 the cells were inoculated into 15/10 medium

containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin. The cells were grown at 30°C for 16 hours. 250 µl of the cultures were inoculated into 60 ml of the same medium and the cultures were grown at 30°C 275 rpm. The optical density was monitored at 550 nm and when the cultures reached an optical density of approximately 0.3 (range 0.253-0.312) the cells were collected by centrifugation. Specifically, 40ml of the cells were collected by centrifugation for 10 min at 4°C 2500rpm in an IEC HN SII centrifuge. The cell pellets were resuspended in 3.2 ml of cold CCMB80 and the cells were placed on ice for 20 min. 250 µl of the cells were vialled in NUNC cryovials and the vials were frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath for 5 min. The cells were stored in a -20°C freezer for the stability study. At intervals 2 vials were removed from the freezer and the cells were assayed for the viable cell count. The remainder of the cells (15-20 ml) were collected by centrifugation, washed once in 10mM Tris HCl pH7.5 and the cell pellets were stored at -20°C. The lipids were extracted from the cell pellets and were analyzed for fatty acids.

The cell pellet was washed and resuspended in distilled water and the solution was transferred to a glass tube. Two volumes of methanol and one volume of chloroform were added to the glass tube for each volume of cell solution. After mixing and centrifuging, the supernatant was transferred to a new glass tube. One volume of distilled water and one volume of chloroform were added to the tube and a two phase solution was obtained. The organic phase was transferred to a new glass tube and the organic solution was dried by blowing nitrogen gas onto the surface of the solution. 2 ml of ethanol was then added to each tube and the solution was again dried with nitrogen. The ethanol wash step was repeated. 2 ml of 0.5M sodium methoxide (Aldrich) was added to each tube and the tubes were kept at room temperature for 1 hour. 0.1 ml of glacial acetic acid and 5 ml of distilled water were added to each tube. The solution was

extracted 2 times with 5 ml hexane. The solution was then dried and redissolved in 200 μ l of carbon disulfide.

For GC analysis, a Hewlett-Packard 5890 Series II gas chromatograph equipped with a capillary inlet system and HP 7673 automatic sampler was used (Hewlett-Packard, Palo Alto, CA). The column was a 30 m x 0.32 μ m I.D. fused silica capillary column coated with demethylpolysiloxane with a film thickness of 1.0 μ m (Alltech, Deerfield, IL). Ultra high purity helium at a flow rate of 1 ml/min was used as the carrier gas. A split-injection (50:1) mode was used, with the injector set at 285°C. The oven temperature was set at 190°C. After each analysis, the oven temperature was increased by 50°C/min to 285°C and held for 10 min. The FID detector temperature was 285°C.

Table 4 shows the effects of the presence of *fabB* clones on the level of unsaturated fatty acids in DH5 α , and DH10B.

Table 4										
#	Samples	% Survival -20°C		Fatty Acid Composition						
		1 Mo	2 Mo	C14:0	C16:0	C16:1	C17:0	C18:0	C18:1	C19:0
1	DH5α pCP13	6	2	2	41.5	32.5	3.8	3.2	15.5	1.5
2	DH5α clone 1	28	9	1.8	22.2	25.5	4.5	3.6	41	1.4
3	DH5α pDELTA2	7	1	0.3	43.2	37.3	2.4	1.4	12.2	3.2
4	DH5α pDELTA <i>fabB15</i>	28	12	0.2	4.8	22	0.3	3.4	69.2	0.1
5	DH10B pCP13	7	0.7	0.15	34.6	30.4	4.2	0.4	29.9	0.3
6	DH10B clone 1	6	4	1.6	28.5	26.2	4.1	0.4	40.6	0.05
7	DH10B pDELTA2	4	0.4	1.6	35.9	27.4	5.4	0.3	29.3	0.1
8	DH10B pDELTA <i>fabB15</i>	59	29	0.3	14.2	17.6	3.5	1.9	62.4	0.1

In Table 4, C14:0 refers to myrsitic acid, C16:0 refers to palmitic acid, C16:1 refers to palmitoleic acid, C17:0 refers to margaric acid, C18:0 refers to stearic acid, C18:1 refers to cis-vaccenic acid, and C19:0 refers to nondecylic acid. As seen in Table 4, and Figure 19, the presence of cosmid clone 1 in strain DH5α increases the cis vaccenate level from 15.5% in strain DH5α pCP13 to 41% in DH5α cosmid clone 1. The presence of plasmid pDELTA2 *fabB15* increases the cis vaccenate level from 12.2% in DH5α pDELTA2 to 69.2% in DH5α pDELTA2 *fabB15*. A similar increase in the cis vaccenate level is seen in strain DH10B. The cis vaccenate level increases from 29.9% in strain DH10B pCP13 to 40.6% in strain DH10B cosmid clone 1 and from 29.3% in strain DH10B pDELTA2 to 62.4% in strain DH10B pDELTA2 *fabB15*. When the level of total unsaturated lipids (both

C18:1 and C16:1) are calculated, the presence of a functional *fabB* gene on a plasmid increases the unsaturated fatty acid level from 48-49% in strains DH5 α pCP13 and DH5 α pDELTA2 to 66.5% in DH5 α cosmid clone 1 and to 91% in strain DH5 α pDELTA2 *fabB*15 (Figure 20). As
5 expected, the higher copy number plasmid pDELTA2 *fabB*15 increases the unsaturated lipid level more than the lower copy number cosmid clone 1. In strain DH10B the presence of a functional *fabB* gene on a plasmid increases the unsaturated fatty acid level from 56-60% in strains DH10B pCP13 and DH10B pDELTA2 to 67% in strain DH10B
10 cosmid clone 1 and to 80% in DH10B pDELTA2 *fabB*15 (Figure 20). Again, the higher copy number plasmid pDELTA2 *fabB*15 increases the unsaturated lipid level more than the lower copy number cosmid clone 1.

The results of the stability study can be found in Figures 21
15 and 22. As seen in Figure 21, the DH5 α cells containing pCP13 or pDELTA2 are unstable at -20°C and the viable cell count decreases from 3.5×10^8 cells/ml to $3.9-10 \times 10^6$ cells/ml over a period of 2 months. DH5 α cells containing cosmid clone 1 or pDELTA2 *fabB* 15 are more stable than the control cells and have 5-10 fold more viable
20 cells/ml compared to cells containing pCP13 or pDELTA2. Similarly DH10B cells containing pCP13 or pDELTA2 are also unstable at -20°C decreasing from 2.3×10^8 cells/ml to approximately 1.0×10^6 cells/ml over the same period of time at -20°C (Figure 22). DH10B cells
25 containing cosmid clone 1 or pDELTA2 *fabB* 15 are more stable with 10-40 fold higher viable cell counts than found in control cells.

As indicated in Figure 23, a correlation exists between the survival of the DH5 α and DH10B cells at -20°C and the amount of unsaturated fatty acids found in the cell membrane. When the results are plotted as cell survival at -20°C on the y axis and percent
30 of total lipids as unsaturated fatty acids on the x axis, the results

indicate that the higher the value of total unsaturated lipids in the cell membrane, the greater the survival rate of the cells at -20°C. (Figure 23).

Example 16 Increased Survival of SB3499B Cells

To determine if the increased survival of SB3499B cells stored at -20°C was due to an increased level of unsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane, DH10B and SB3499B cells were grown at several different temperatures and the lipids were analyzed as in Example 15. In addition, strain CY322 containing a mutation in *fabF* was also included in this study. This particular *fabF* mutation results in the overproduction of cis vaccenate at all growth temperatures (Ulrich, A.K. *et al.*, J. Bact 154: 221-230 (1983)). Specifically, CY322, DH10B and SB3499B master seeds stored at -70°C were used as a source of the cells used for this experiment. The strains were streaked on LB plates and the plates were incubated at 23°C, 30°C, 37°C, and 42°C. The cells from these plates were used to inoculate 1.5ml broth cultures. For DH10B and SB3499B the cells were inoculated into 15/10 medium. For CY322 the cells were inoculated into SOB medium. The cultures were grown at 23°C, 30°C, 37°C, and 42°C for 16 hours. 0.3 ml of the DH10B and SB3499B cells were inoculated into 60ml of 15/10 medium and the cultures were grown at the appropriate growth temperature 275rpm and the optical density was monitored at 550nm. 0.2 ml of the CY322 cells were inoculated into 25 ml of SOB medium and the cultures were shaken at the appropriate growth temperature. When the optical density of the CY322 cells reached 0.25 (range 0.24-0.262) the cells were collected by centrifugation at 4°C for 10 min 2500rpm in an IEC HN SII centrifuge. The cell pellets were washed once with 10mM Tris HCl pH7.5 and the cell pellets were stored at -20°C. The lipids were extracted and analyzed by GC as presented in Example 17. For the DH10B and SB3499B cells, the optical density

was monitored and when the OD reached approximately 0.3(range 0.24-0.33, 40 ml of the cells were collected by centrifugation and the cell pellets were resuspended in 0.32 ml of cold CCMB80. The cells were allowed to remain on ice for 20 min and 250 ul was viald in 5 NUNC cryovials. The vials were frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath and were stored at -20°C for the stability study. 15-20 ml of the cells were also centrifuged and the cell pellets were washed once in 10mM Tris HCl pH7.5. The cell pellets were stored at -20°C and were then extracted for lipid analysis as in Example 17.

10 The results of the lipid analysis are found in Table 5 and Figure 24.

Table 5								
Fatty Acid Composition								
#	Sample	Growth Temp.	C14:0	C16:0	C16:1	C17:0	C18:0	C18:1
1	DH10B	23°C	5.6%	41.0%	31.8%	2.1%	2.1%	17.4%
3	DH10B	30°C	4.3%	39.4%	32%	2.6%	1.3%	20.3%
5	DH10B	37°C	3.3%	40.3%	29.8%	3.7%	3.3%	19.6%
9	DH10B	42°C	4.5%	49.2%	27.5%	2.5%	2.3%	14.0%
2	SB3499B	23°C	0.8%	24.2%	34.4%	2.3%	0.8%	37.5%
4	SB3499B	30°C	1.3%	24.4%	27.9%	3.0%	1.7%	42.1%
6	SB3499B	37°C	1.4%	29.2%	27.5%	3.7%	0.6%	37.6%
10	SB3499B	42°C	2.9%	42.8%	28.8%	3.2%	2.9%	19.4%
11	CY322	23°C	2.4%	29.6%	28.3%	1.6%	4.9%	33.2%
12	CY322	30°C	2.6%	32.4%	22.5%	3.9%	6.0%	32.6%
13	CY322	37°C	3.2%	33%	21.4%	6.1%	4.1%	32.3%
14	CY322	42°C	1.6%	37.6%	14.6%	1.8%	5.7%	38.7%

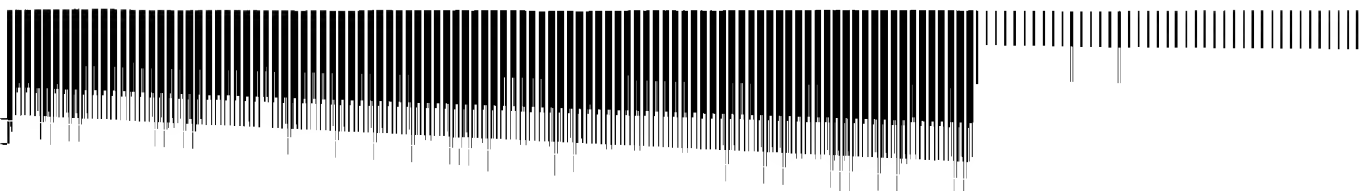
In Table 5, C14:0 refers to myrsitic acid, C16:0 refers to palmitic acid, C16:1 refers to palmitoleic acid, C17:0 refers to margaric acid,

C18:0 refers to stearic acid, C18:1 refers to vaccenic acid, and C19:0 refers to nondecylic acid.

Figure 24 indicates that cells of SB3499B have a higher level of cis vaccenate (37-42%) compared to cells of DH10B (17-20%). The higher levels of cis vaccenate are found in SB3499B cells grown at either 23°C, 30°C, or 37°C. However, if the SB3499B cells are grown at 42°C the level of cis vaccenate is not appreciably greater than in DH10B cells grown at 42°C. In addition, the cells of CY322 grown at 23°C, 30°C, 37°C, or 42°C have levels of cis vaccenate which are greater than those levels found in DH10B and which do not appreciably vary with the growth temperature. This finding is consistent with the known phenotype of *E. coli* strains which have the *fabF* mutation (such as CY322), specifically the overproduction of cis vaccenate regardless of growth temperature.

Figure 25 also indicates that, at 23°C, 30°C, and 37°C, the total level of unsaturated lipids (C16:1 and C18:1) is greater in SB3499B cells than in DH10B cells. The levels range from 65% to 71% in SB3499B and from 49% to 52% in DH10B. On the other hand, when these 2 strains are grown at 42°C, the levels of unsaturated lipids is essentially the same in both strains (41% in DH10B and 48% for SB3499B). These results indicate that SB3499B, at most growth temperatures examined, overproduces cis vaccenate compared to cells of DH10B. As a result, at these same growth temperatures, the levels of unsaturated lipids in the phospholipid are higher in SB3499B than in DH10B (Figure 25).

The results of the -20°C stability study are presented in Figures 26 and 27. The DH10B cells are quite unstable when stored at -20°C but appear more unstable when cells are grown at 37°C or 42°C. DH10B cells grown at 23°C or 30°C and stored at -20°C lose approximately 90% of the viable cells after one month at -20°C whereas DH10B cells grown at 37°C or 42°C lose approximately 99%



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of the viable cells. SB3499B cells again demonstrate enhanced survival compared to DH10B cells but the effect depends on the growth temperature. The SB3499B cells grown at 23°C and stored at -20°C for one month have a 6 fold higher viable cell count compared to DH10B cells. However, the improvement in the viable cell count of SB3499B cells relative to DH10B cells becomes progressively less pronounced as the growth temperature increases. SB3499B cells grown at 37°C or 42°C are no more stable at -20°C than are the DH10B cells. The correlation between total unsaturated fatty acids in the cell membrane and cell survival at -20°C can be observed when the cell survival at -20°C is plotted against the total unsaturated fatty acid content of the cell membrane. This data is shown in Figure 28. The data indicates a correlation in that for both strains SB3499B and DH10B, an increase in the total unsaturated fatty acid composition of the cell membrane results in an enhanced cell survival at -20°C.

While the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that it is capable of further modifications and this application is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice within the art to which the inventions pertains and as may be applied to the essential features hereinbefore set forth and as follows in the scope of the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION

- (i) APPLICANT: Life Technologies, Inc.
8717 Grovemont Circle
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20884
- (ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: METHOD FOR INCREASING VIABILITY
AND TRANSFORMATION EFFICIENCY OF BACTERIA DURING
STORAGE AT LOW TEMPERATURES
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 17
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
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 - (B) STREET: 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 - (C) CITY: Washington
 - (D) STATE: DC
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 20004-2402
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
 - (B) FILING DATE:
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 06/014,330
 - (B) FILING DATE: 29-MAR-1996
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 06/025,838
 - (B) FILING DATE: 05-SEP-1996
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Sira, Serge
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 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 04227-0030
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 - (A) TELEPHONE: 202 383-6857
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 - (C) TELEX:

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 25 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid

- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

CGACTCACTA TAGGGAAGTG ATCCT

25

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 25 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

GATTTAGGTG AACTATAGA GATCC

25

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

CCACATATCC GGGTTTTTCG CTG

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

GAGGTTGGCA GGTTGTATGG AGT

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

TATGGAGCAG GCAATCGCTG ATG

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

CGTGAAGTGT TCGGCGATAA GAG

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

AATGCGGCCT CCGGCACTAA CAC

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

GGTTACGGTG CGTTGGCAGG ATT

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

TATCAACGCC ATGCATCGCC ATC

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

ACTCCATACA ACCTGCCAAC CTC

23

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 17 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

CTGGCGGCGG CGAAGAG

17

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 21 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

AAATGGCTGA TCGGACTTGT T

21

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 19 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

TCCGGGGTGT CGTTGTATT

19

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2658 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

CGTAGNTTTC GTTNCATTGG CCCTCAAACC CCTAATAGCG CCAGCGACAA CAACGCGCTG	60
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GGCGCGGAGC AGGGGAGCGG TAATGTCTGT TCCATCACCC CGCAAAGCAT TTCCCGTTTG	180
CGCCCAAAGC CCTTACGTTT TTGCATCGTG AATCCGGCGT CCTGCAAACC GCGCGGACA	240
AAACCGGCAG ACGTAAATGT CGCCAGCGTG CCGCCCGGAC GCGCCAACCT TGCCATGGCG	300

TTAAACAGAT	TTTGCCTCCA	CATATCCGGG	TTTTTCGCTG	GCGCAAAGCC	GTCCAGAAAC	360
CAGGCATCTA	CTTTTTGATT	TAGCGAATCG	TCCAGTTGGC	TGGTCAGTTC	GTTAATATCG	420
CCAAACCATA	AATCCAGCGT	CACGCGGCCT	TCATCGAGCA	ATAAACGATG	GCAACCGGGC	480
AAGGGCATTG	GCCACTGCGC	CTGAAGTTGT	TCTGCCACG	GAGCCAGTTC	CGGCCAGTGT	540
TGATGCGCTA	AGGCTAAATC	CGCACGGGTG	AGGGGAAATT	TCTCAAAACT	AATGAAATGT	600
AAGCGTTGTA	ATTGCGCTTG	CGGATGCGCT	TCGCGAAACT	GATCAAATGC	CTGCCATAGC	660
GTCAGGAAGT	TTAATCCGGT	GCCGAAGCCG	CTCTCTGCTA	CCACAAACAG	AGGATGTGGA	720
TGCTCAGGAA	AGCGTACCTC	TAATTGGTTG	CCTCCCAGAA	AAACATAACG	CGTCTCTTCC	780
AGCCCGTTAT	CGTTGGAAAA	ATAGACATCG	TCAAAATCTC	GGGAAACAGG	TGTACCCTCA	840
GCATTAAATT	CGAGGTTGGC	AGGTTGTATG	GAGTAGTGT	TCACGTAAGT	TACTCGTCTT	900
ACAGGCGGTG	GCTCGATCTT	AGCGATGTGT	GTAAGGCTGC	GCAAATTTCT	CTATTAATG	960
GCTGATCGGA	CTTGTTCCGC	GTACAAGTGT	ACGCTATTGT	GCATTGCAAA	CTTACTCTAT	1020
GTGCGACTTA	CAGAGGTATT	GAATGAAACG	TGCAGTGATT	ACTGGCCTGG	GCATTGTTTC	1080
CAGCATCGGT	AATAACCAAG	AGGAAGTCTT	GGCATCTCTG	CGTGAAGGAC	GTTCAAGGAT	1140
CACCTTCTCT	CAGGAGCTGA	AGGATTCCGG	CATGCGTAGC	CACGTCTGGG	GCAACGTAAG	1200
ACTGGATACC	ACTGGCCTCA	TTGACCGCAA	AGTTGTGCGC	TTTATGAGCG	ACGCATCCAT	1260
TTATGCATTC	CTTTCTATGG	AGCAGGCAAT	CGCTGATGCG	GGCCTCTCTC	CGGAAGCTTA	1320
CCAGAATAAC	CCGCGCGTTG	GCCTGATTGC	AGGTTCCGGC	GGCGGCTCCC	CGCGTTTCCA	1380
GGTGTTCCGC	GCTGACGCAA	TGCGCGGCCC	GCGCGGCTTG	AAAGCGGTTG	GCCCGTATGT	1440
GGTCACCAAA	GCGATGGCAT	CCGCGGTTTC	TGCGTGCCTC	GCCACCCCGT	TTAAAAATTCA	1500
TGGCGTTAAT	TACTCCATCA	GCTCCGCGTG	TGCGACTTCC	GCACACTGTA	TCGGTAACGC	1560
AGTAGAGCAG	ATCCAACTGG	GCAACACAGG	CATCGTGTTC	GCTGGCGGGG	GCGAAGAGCT	1620
GTGCTGGGAA	ATGGCTTTCG	AATTCGACGC	AATGGGTGCG	CTGTCTACTA	AATACAACGA	1680
CACCCCGGAA	AAAGCCTCCC	GTACTTACGA	CGCTCACCGT	GACGGTTTCG	TTATCGCTGG	1740
CGGCGGCGGT	ATGGTAGTGG	TTGAAGAGCT	GGAACACGCG	CTGGCGCGTG	GTGCTCACAT	1800
CTATGCTGAA	ATCGTTGGCT	ACGCGCGAAC	CTCTGATGGT	GCAGACATGG	TTGCTCCGTC	1860
TGGCGAAGGC	GCAGTACGCT	GCATGAAGAT	GGCGATGCAT	GGCGTTGATA	CCCCAATCGA	1920
TTACCTGAAC	TCCCACGGTA	CTTCGACTCC	GGTTGGCGAC	GTGAAAGAGC	TGGCAGCTAT	1980
CCGTGAAGTG	TTCCGCGATA	AGAGCCCGGC	GATTTCTGCA	ACCAAAGCCA	TGACCCGGTCA	2040
CTCTCTGGGC	GCTGCTGGCG	TACAGGAAGC	TATCTACTCT	CTGCTGATGC	TGGAACACGG	2100
CTTTATCGCC	CCGAGCATCA	ACATTGAAGA	GCTGGACGAG	CAGGCTGCGG	GTCTGAACAT	2160
CGTGACCGAA	ACGACCGATC	GCGAACTGAC	CACCGTTATG	TCTAACAGCT	TCGGCTTCGG	2220
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TAGACGCGCC	AGCCTCGCAT	CCGACGTTAC	GCGCCAATGC	GGCCTCCGGC	ACTAACGCAA	2340
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CTTCCCGCTT	TGTCGATTTC	CTTCTGAAAA	GACGTACGCG	TTAAATCCTG	CCAACGCACC	2460
GTAACCTGTA	AACCAGAGAG	ATGAGACGGG	GATACTCCTC	GCCTTGCGCT	GCATTCTGGA	2520
GTAATGCATG	ACTGCTGTAA	GCCAAACCGA	AACACGATCT	TTCTGCCAAT	TTTTCGCTYT	2580
TTCCGCATCG	CTTTTTCGGG	TTTTTCTTCA	CCTACATGAC	CCGTAGGGTT	GCCGTTGCCG	2640
GTTATCCCGC	TGTTTGT					2658

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 21 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

TAAATTCGAG GTTGGCAGGT T

21

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:16:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

AATCGACAAA GCGGGAAGTT

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 129 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:17:

CTCTCTGGGC	GCTGCTGGCG	TACAGGAAGC	TATCTACTCT	CTGCTGATGC	TGGAACACGG	60
CTTTATCGCC	CCGAGCATCA	ACATTGAAGA	GCTGGACGAG	CAGGCTGCGG	GTCTGAACAT	120
CGTGACCGA						129

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

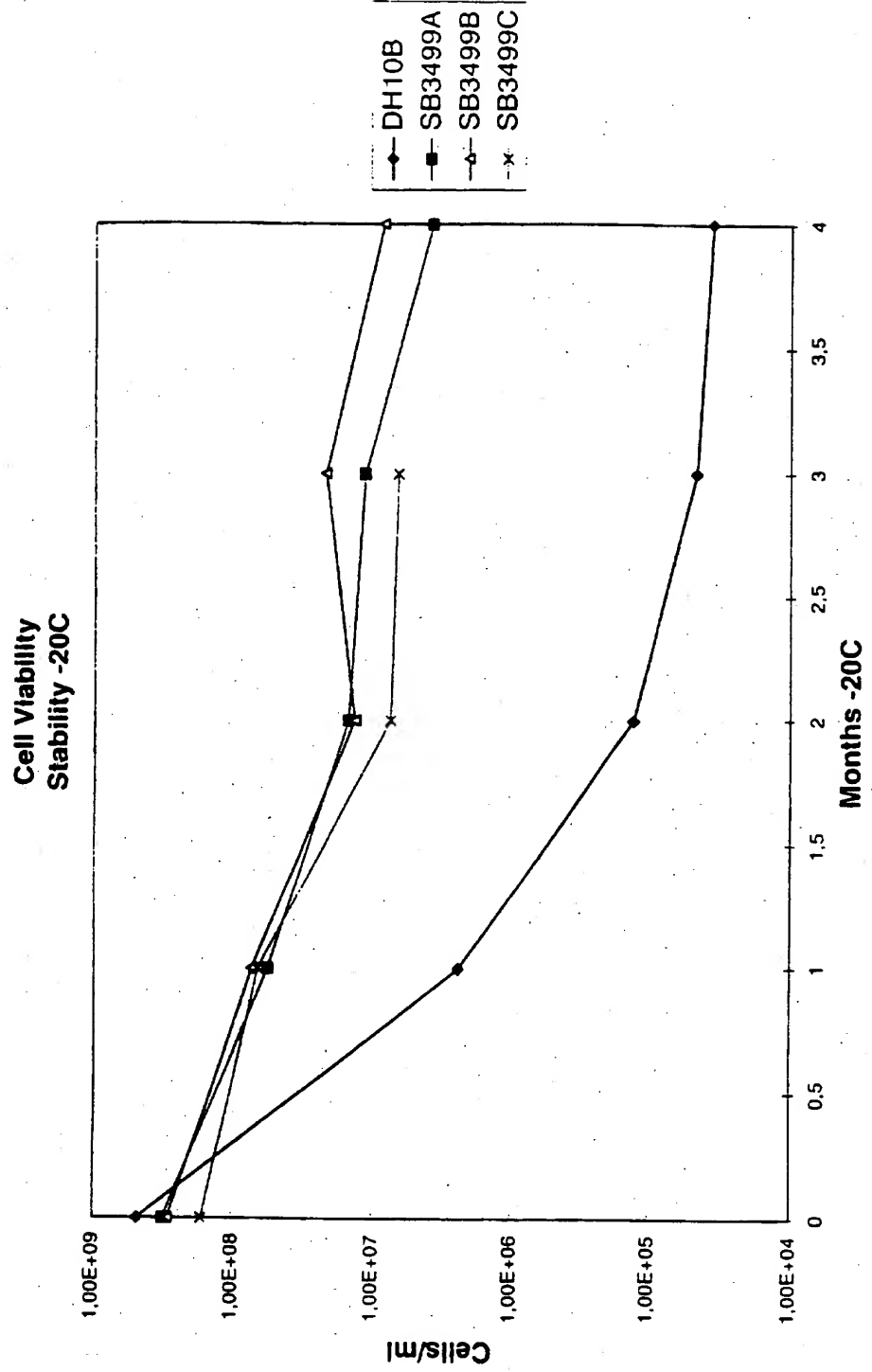
1. A method for obtaining a bacterium having enhanced viability or enhanced transformation efficiency during storage at low temperatures, said method comprising:
 - a. modifying a bacterium such that the fatty acid content of said bacterium is altered; and
 - b. isolating a modified bacterium having enhanced viability or enhanced transformation efficiency during storage at low temperatures.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said modification step comprises genetically altering said bacterium.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said modification step comprises modifying one or more genes involved in changing unsaturated fatty acid content of said bacterium.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said modification step comprises increasing the amount of one or more unsaturated fatty acids in said bacterium.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein said modification step comprises enhancing expression of one or more of said unsaturated fatty acid genes.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said enhanced expression comprises increasing copy number of said genes.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein said enhanced expression comprises increasing transcription or translation of said genes.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said bacterium is a gram negative bacterium.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said bacterium is *Escherchia*.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said bacterium is *E. coli*.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid is an unsaturated fatty acid selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, linoleic acid, palmitoleic acid, and cis-vaccenic acid.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein said unsaturated fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of cis-vaccenic acid and palmitoleic acid.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein said modified bacterium has an altered unsaturated fatty acid content in the bacterial membrane.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein said low temperatures range from about -20°C to about 4°C.
15. A method for enhancing viability or enhancing transformation efficiency of a bacterium during storage at low temperatures, said method comprising altering the fatty acid content of said bacterium.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said modification step comprises genetically altering said bacterium.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein said modification step comprises modifying one or more genes involved in changing unsaturated fatty acid content of said bacterium.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein said modification step comprises increasing the amount of one or more unsaturated fatty acids in said bacterium.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein said modification step comprises enhancing expression of one or more of said unsaturated fatty acid genes.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein said enhanced expression comprises increasing copy number of one or more of said genes.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein said enhanced expression comprises increasing transcription or translation of one or more of said genes.
22. The method of claim 15, wherein said bacterium is a gram negative bacterium.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein said bacterium is *Escherchia*.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein said bacterium is *E. coli*.
25. The method of claim 15, wherein said fatty acid is an unsaturated fatty acid selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, linoleic acid, palmitoleic acid, and cis-vaccenic acid.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein said unsaturated fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of cis-vaccenic acid and palmitoleic acid.
27. The method of claim 15, wherein said modified bacterium has an altered unsaturated fatty acid content in the bacterial membrane.
28. The method of claim 15, wherein said low temperatures range from about -20°C to about 4°C.

29. A bacterium produced by the method of any one of claims 1 or 15.
30. A storage stable bacterium, wherein said bacterium has an altered fatty acid content.
31. The bacterium of claim 30, wherein said bacterium is competent for transformation.
32. A bacterium having enhanced viability or enhanced transformation efficiency during storage at low temperatures, wherein said bacterium has an altered fatty acid content.
33. The bacterium of claim 32, wherein said bacterium has an increased unsaturated fatty acid content.
34. The bacterium of claim 32, wherein said bacterium has been modified genetically.
35. The bacterium of claim 32, wherein said bacterium comprises one or more modified genes involved in changing unsaturated fatty acid content of said bacterium.
36. The bacterium of claim 33, wherein said increased unsaturated fatty acid content is caused by enhancing expression of one or more genes involved in changing unsaturated fatty acid content in said bacterium.
37. The bacterium of claim 36, wherein said enhanced expression comprises increasing copy number of one or more of said genes.
38. The bacterium of claim 36, wherein said enhanced expression comprises increasing transcription or translation of one or more of said genes.

39. The bacterium of claim 32, wherein said bacterium is a gram negative bacterium.
40. The bacterium of claim 39, wherein said bacterium is *Escherchia*.
41. The bacterium of claim 40, wherein said bacterium is *E. coli*.
42. The bacterium of claim 32, wherein said fatty acids are unsaturated fatty acids selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, linoleic acid, palmitoleic acid, and cis-vaccenic acid.
43. The bacterium of claim 42, wherein said unsaturated fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of palmitoleic acid and cis-vaccenic acid.
44. The bacterium of claim 32, wherein said bacterium has an altered unsaturated content in the bacterial membrane.



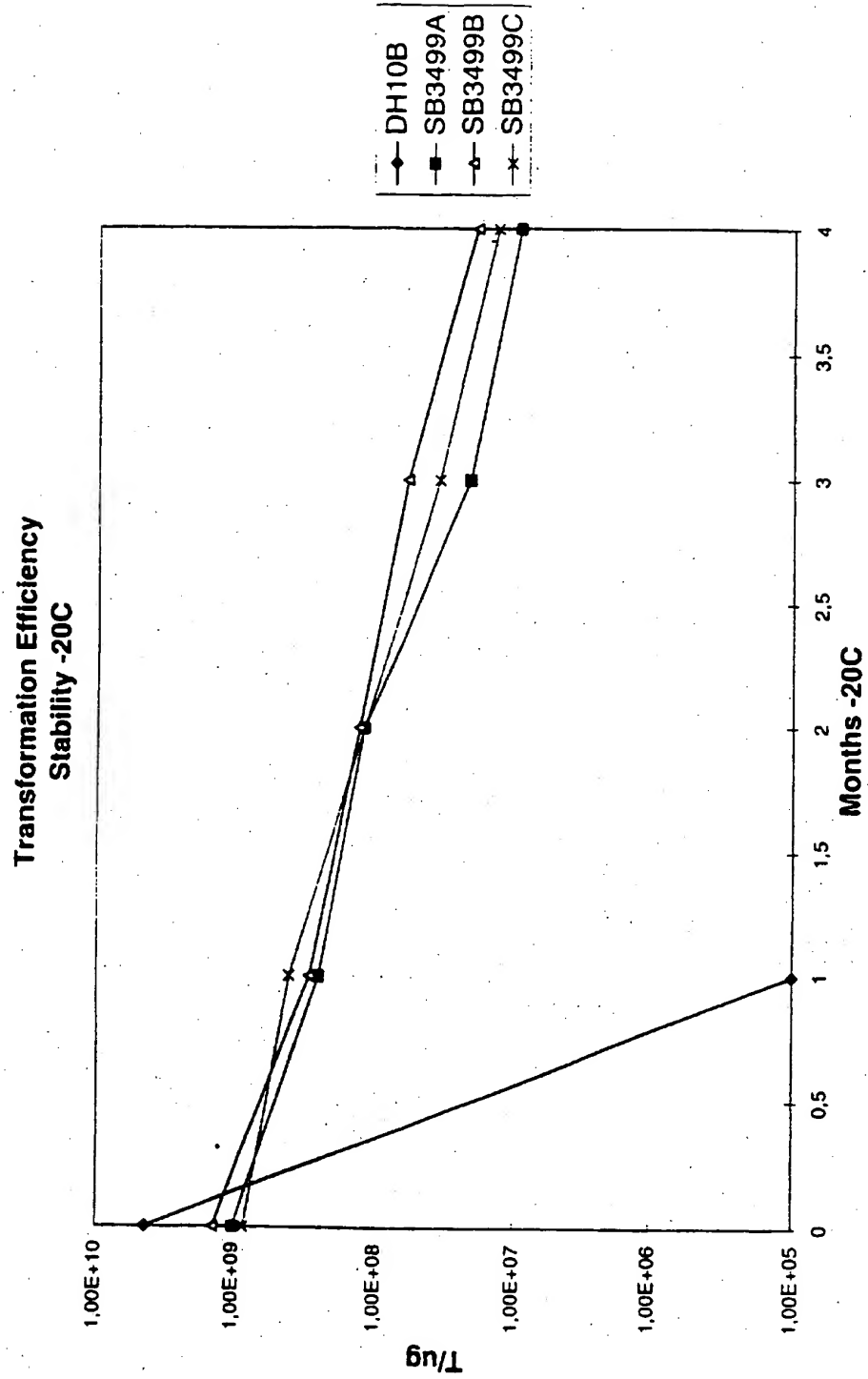


FIGURE 2

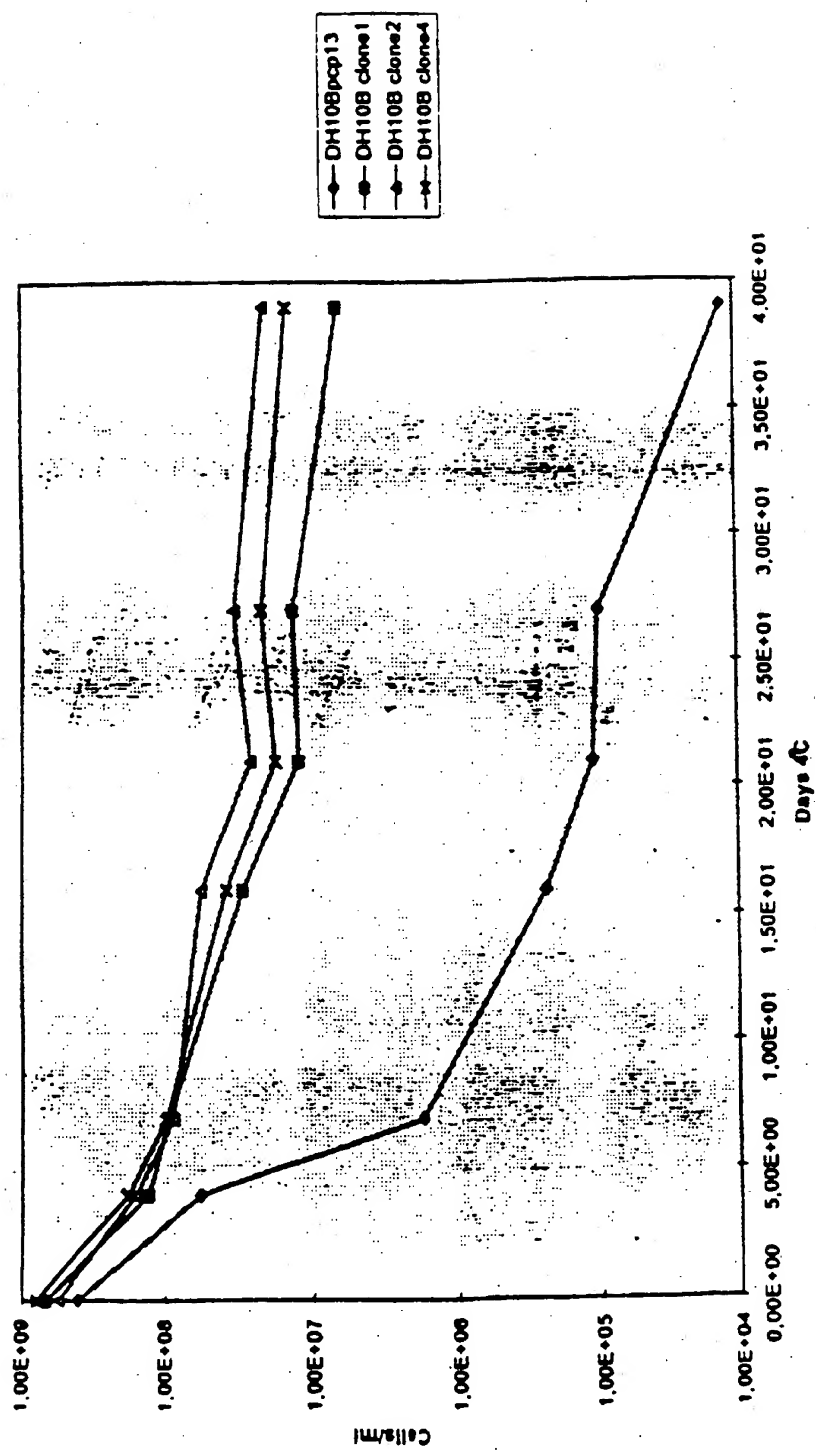


FIGURE 3

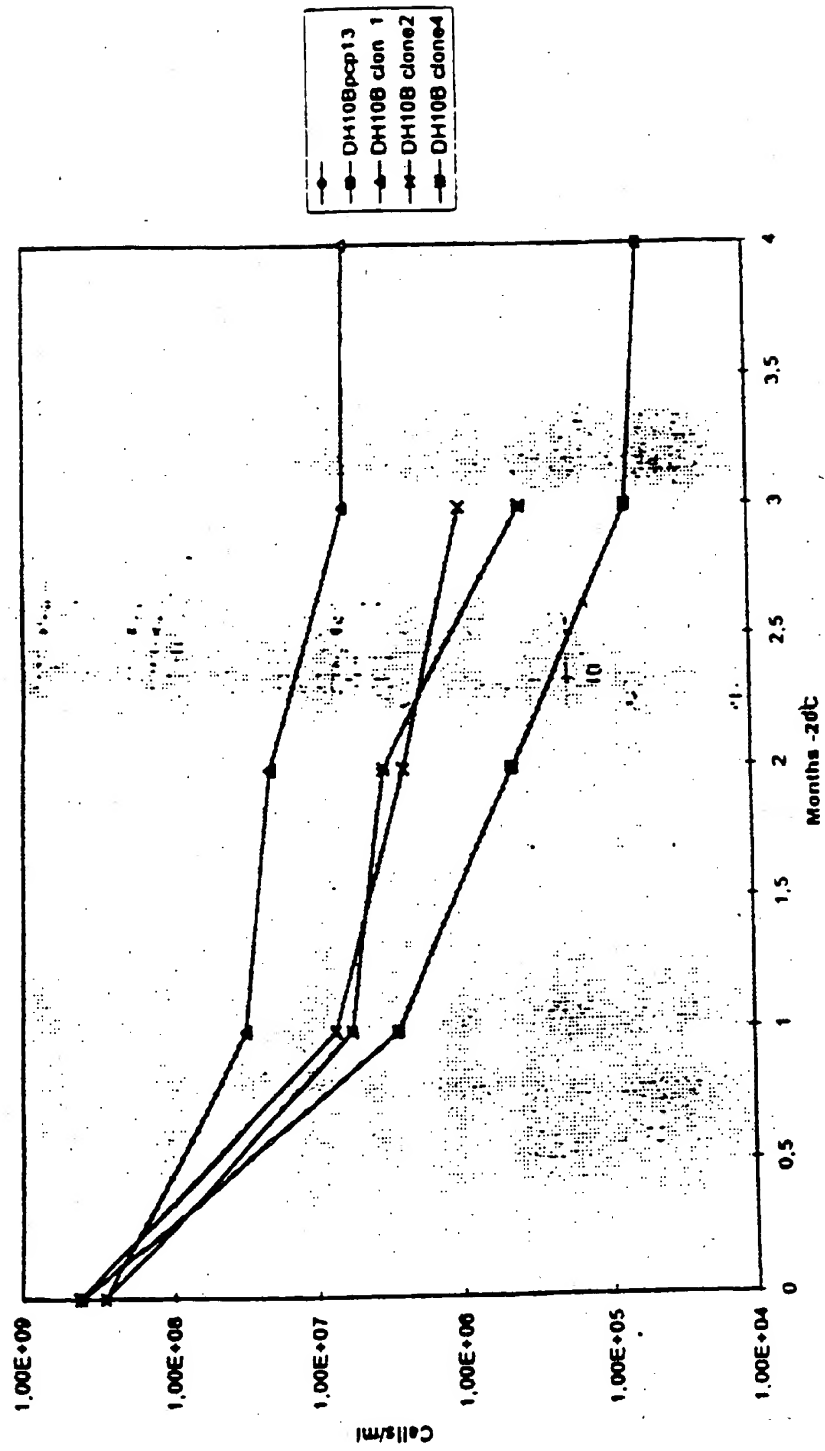
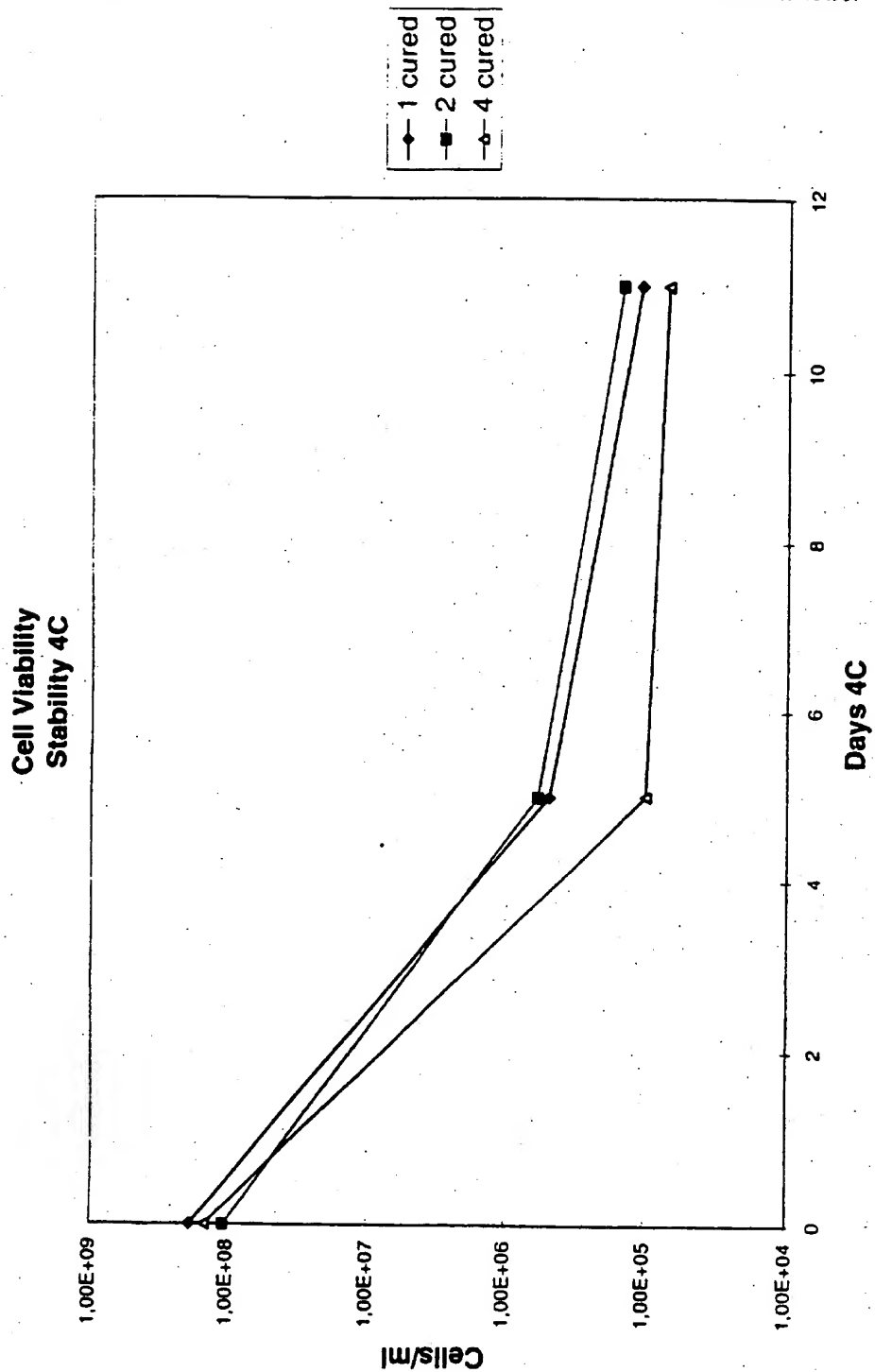


FIGURE 4A



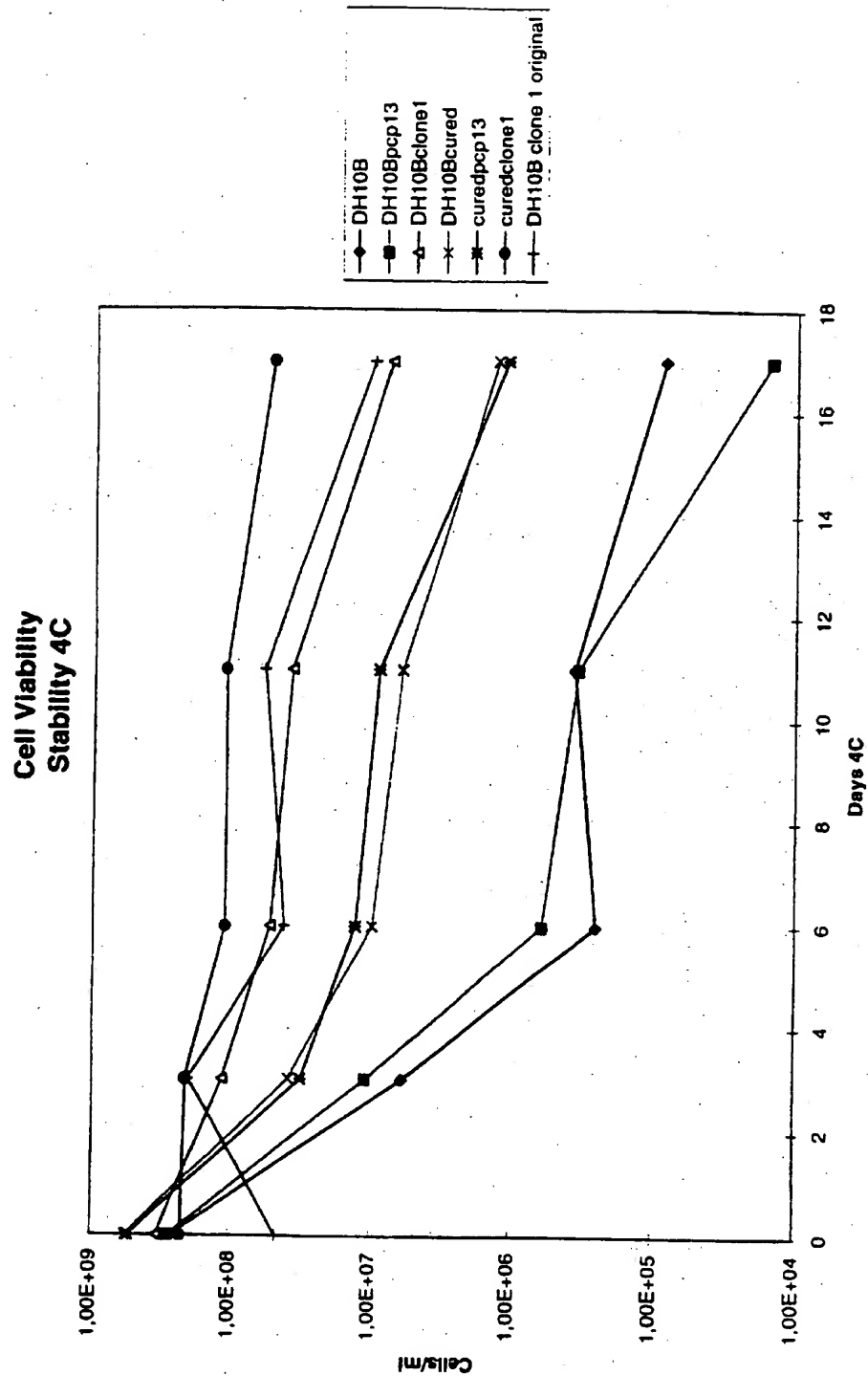


FIGURE 5

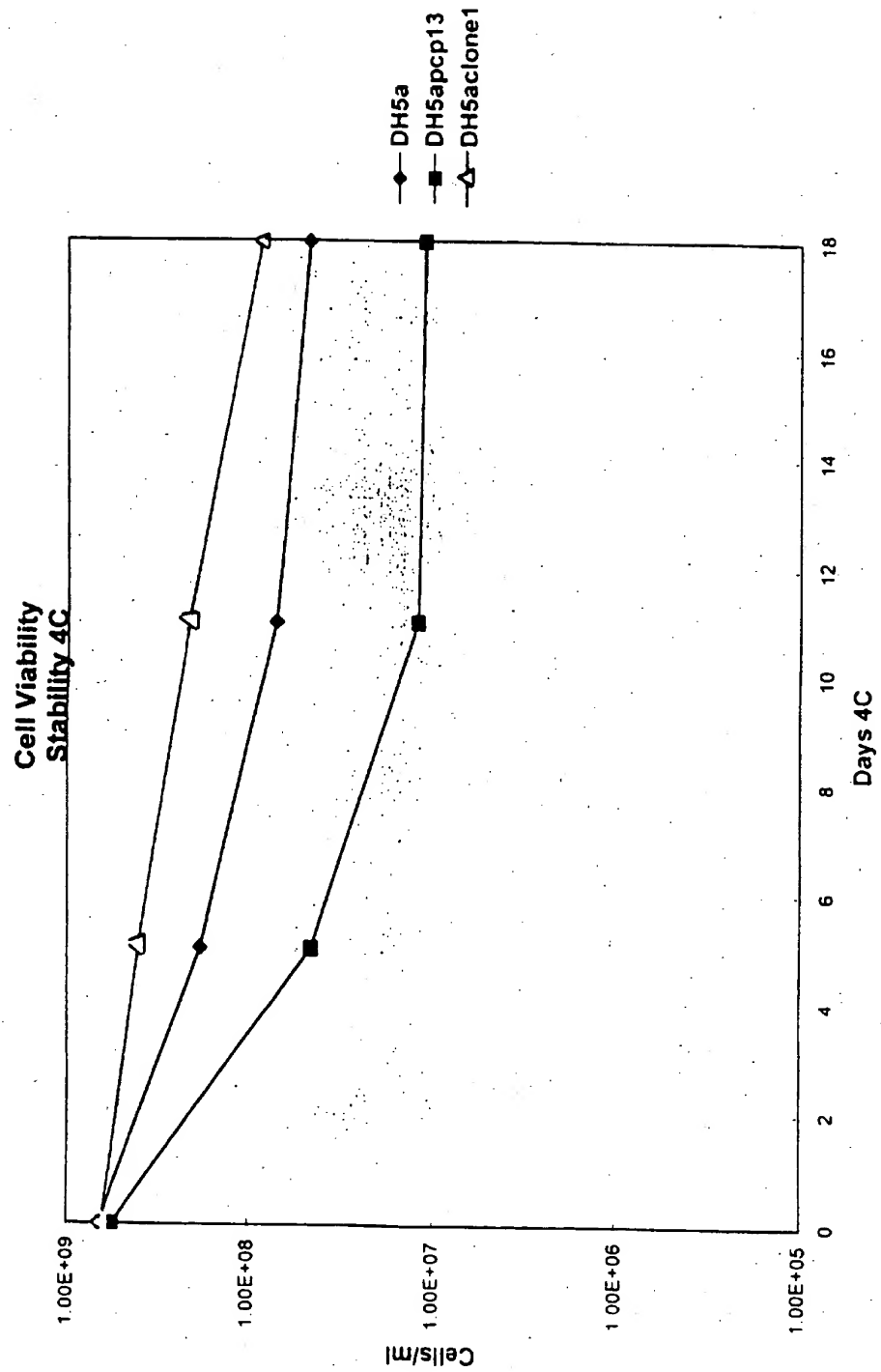


FIGURE 6A

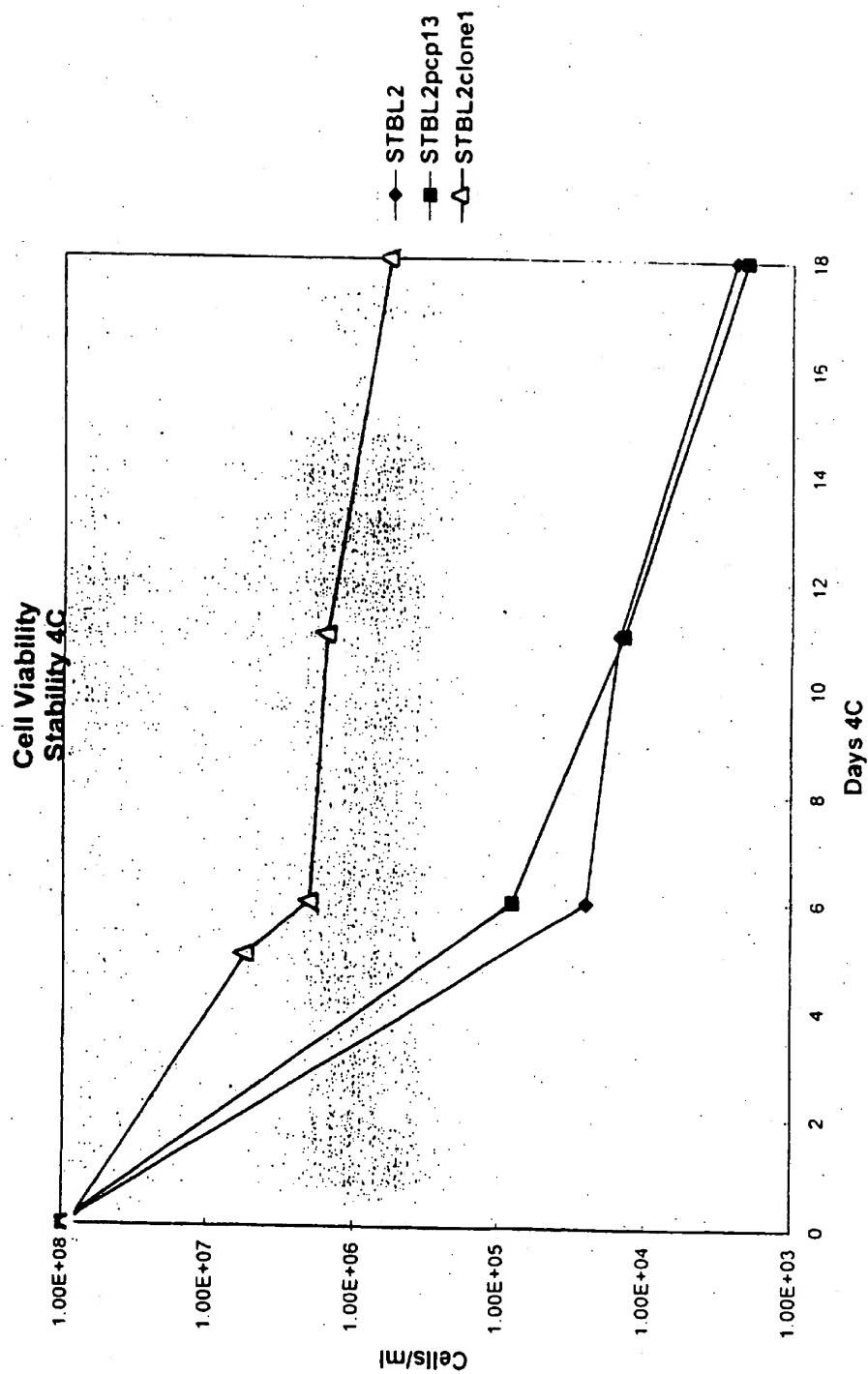


FIGURE 6B

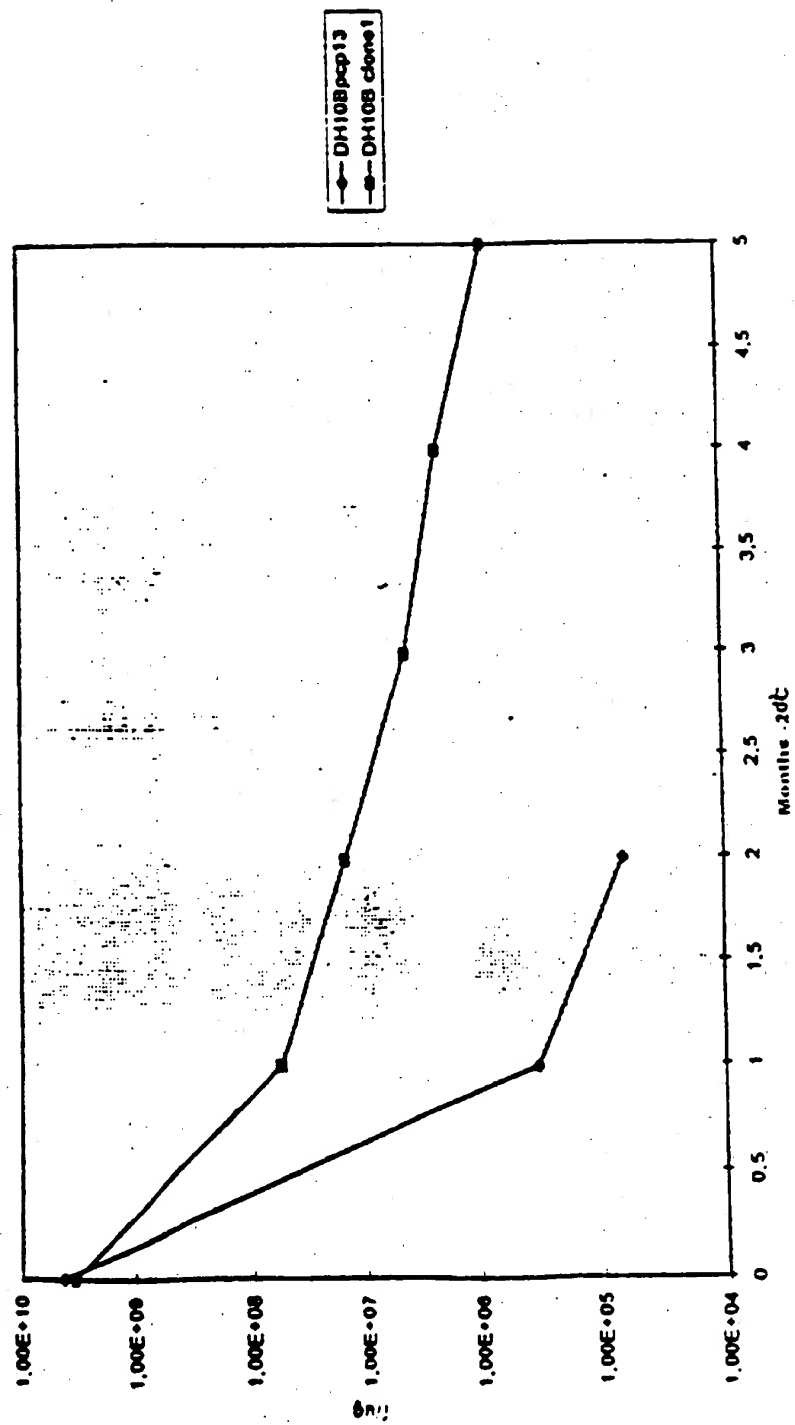


FIGURE 7

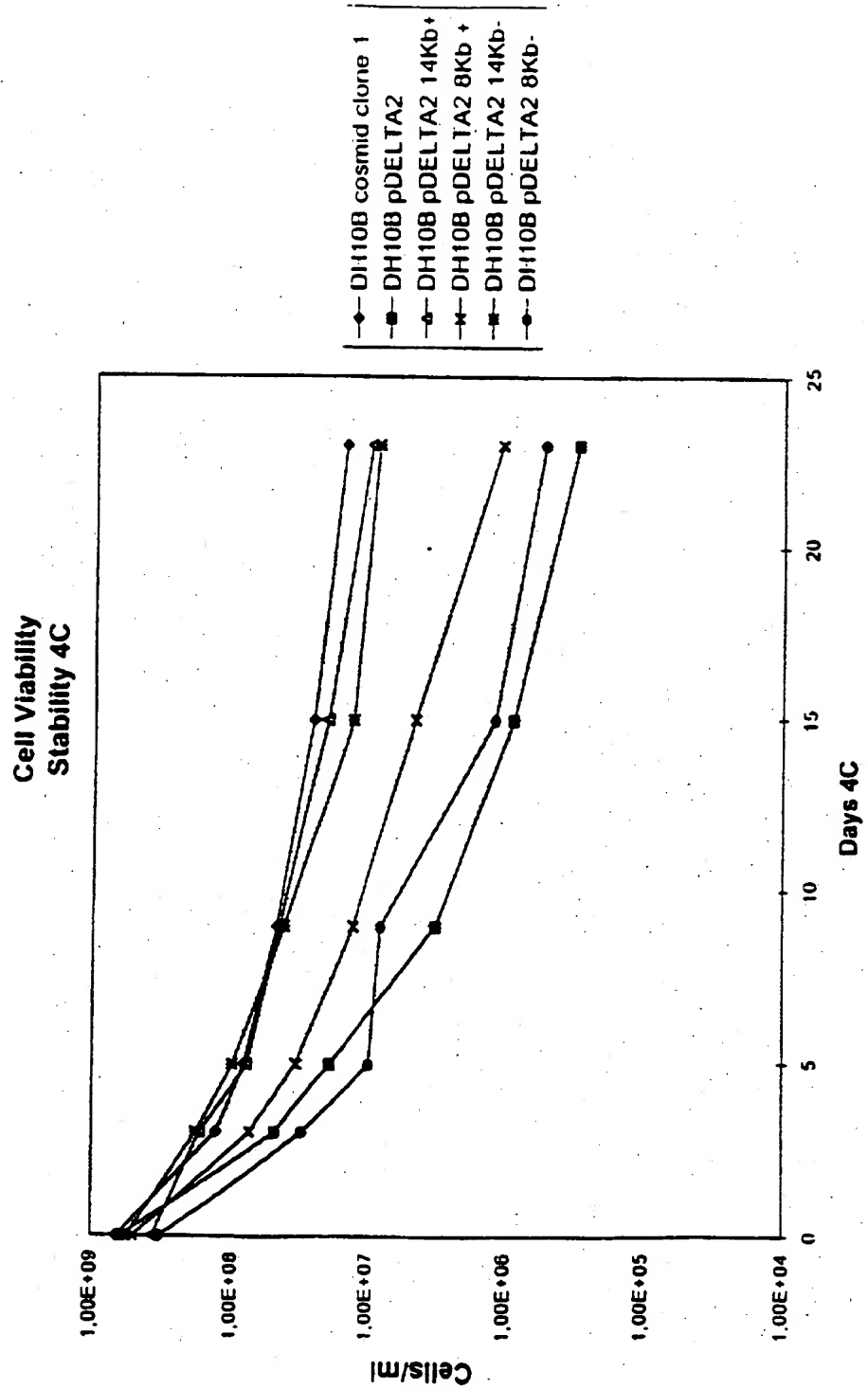
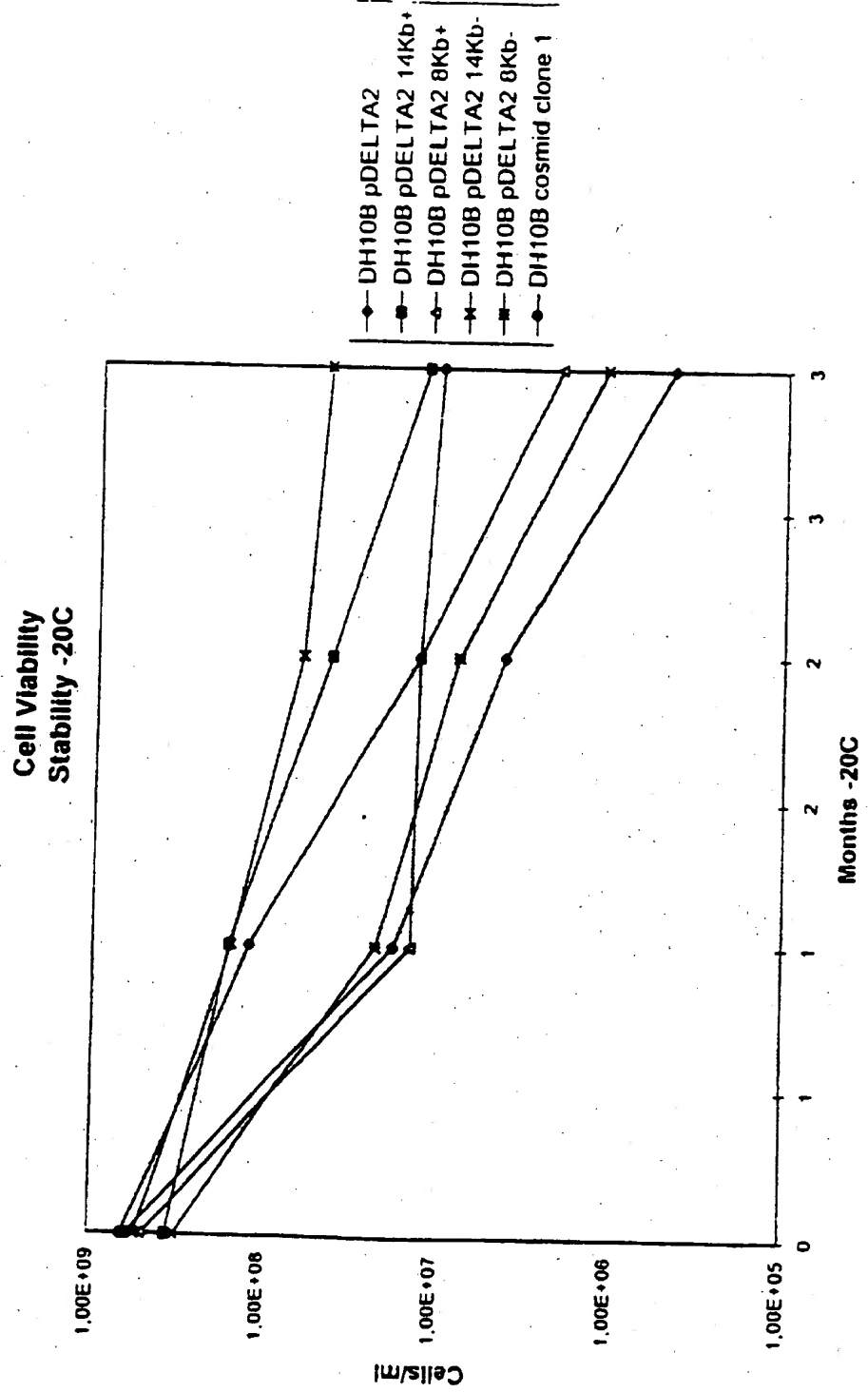


FIGURE 8



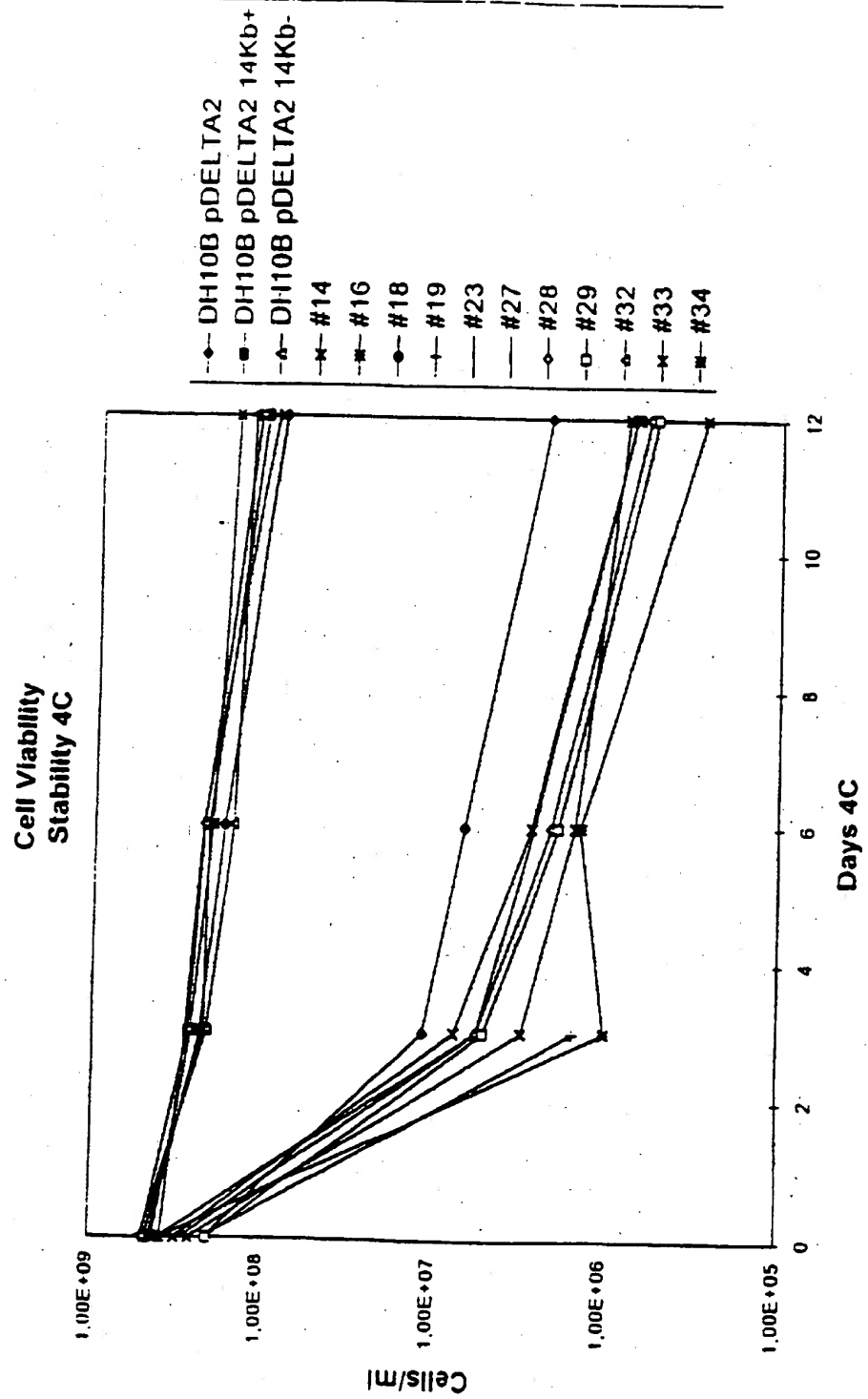


FIGURE 10

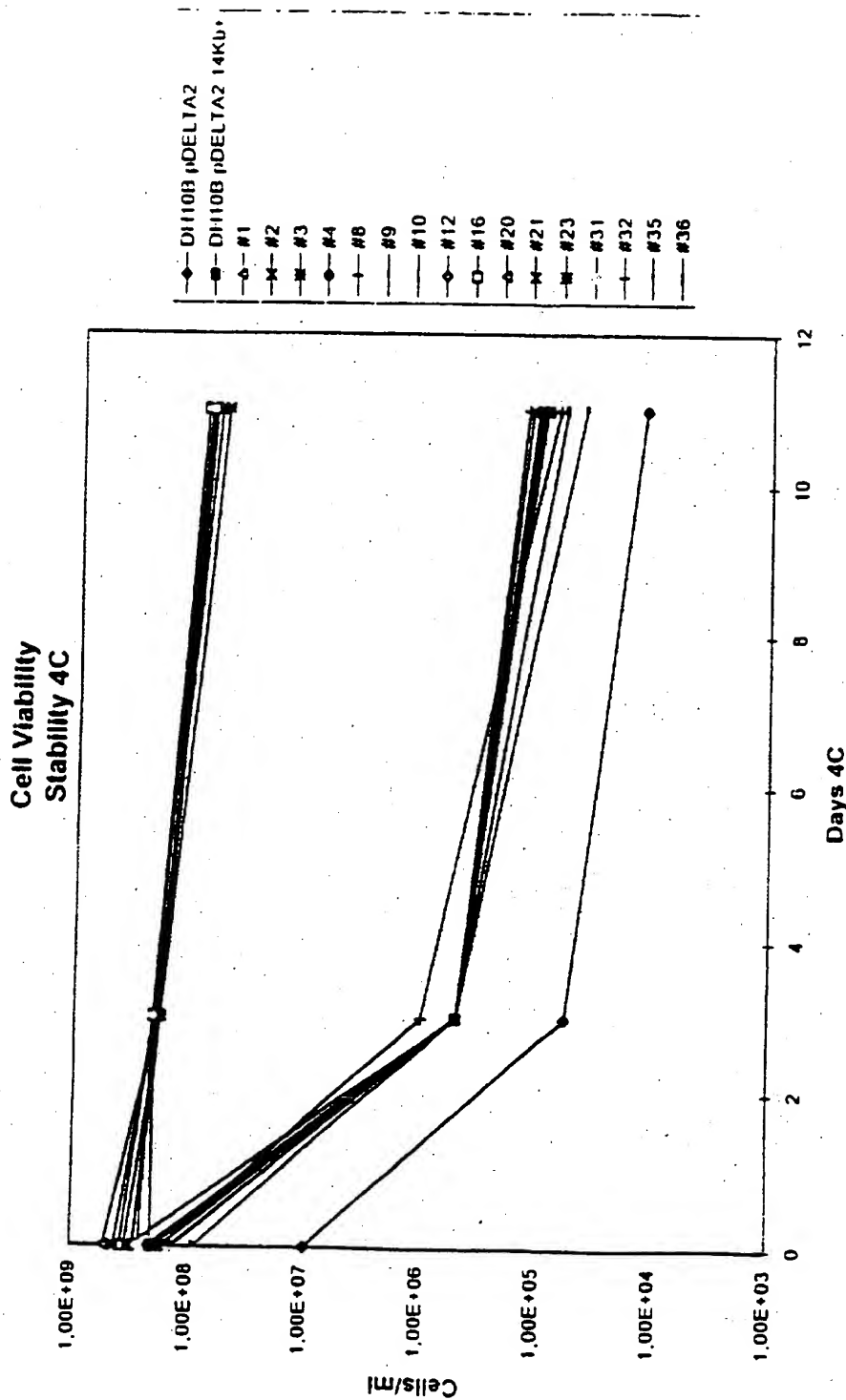


FIGURE 11

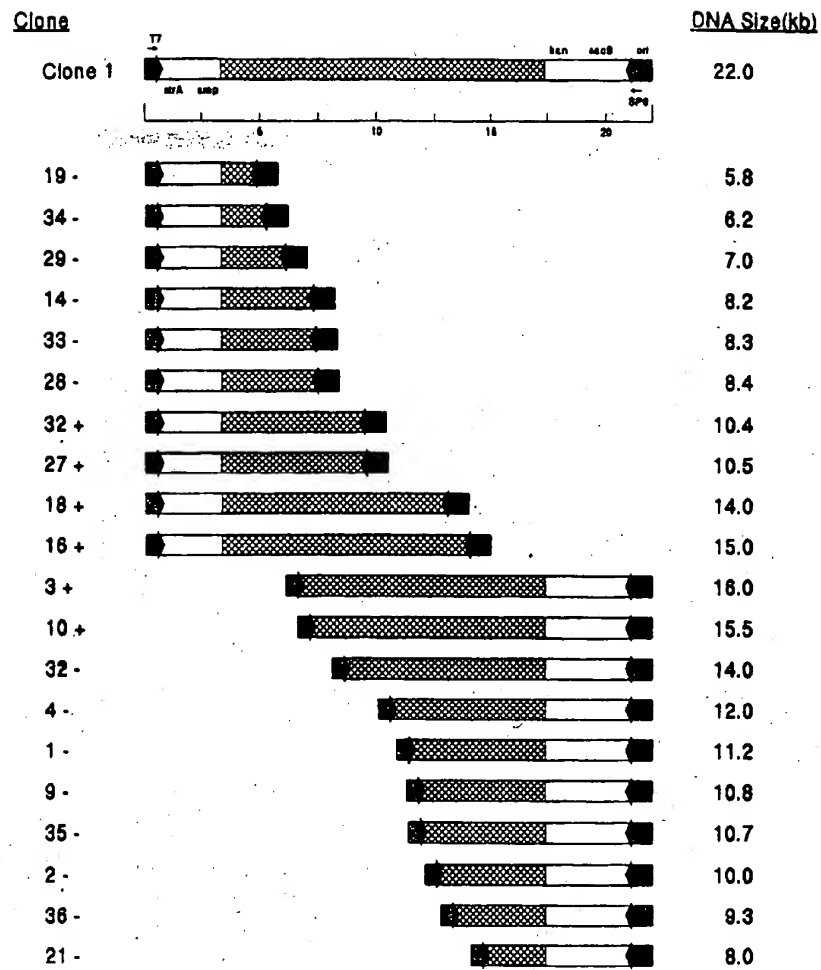


FIGURE 12

Fig. 13 Sequence of essential region of cosmid clone 1

CGTAGNTTTCGTTNCATTGGCCCTCAAACCCCTAATAGCGCCAGCGACAA⁵⁰
CAACGGCGCTGGCAATACCACCGCCGATAATCGCCGCTTCCCGTTTGCTGC¹⁰⁰
TGCCCGTGCGGTTAAACCACGGCGCGGAGCAGGGGAGCGGTAATGTCTGT¹⁵⁰
TCCATC.ACCCCGCAAAGCATTTCCTCGTTTGCGCCCAAAGCCCTTACGTTT²⁰⁰
TTGCATCGTGAATCCGGCGCTCTGCAAACCGCGCGGACAAAACCGGCAG²⁵⁰
ACGTAAATGTGCCAGCGTGCCGCCCGGACGCGCCAACCTTCCCATGGCG³⁰⁰
TTAAAC.AGATTTTGGCTCCACATATCCGGGTTTTTCGCTGGCGCAAAGCC³⁵⁰
GTCCAGAAACCAGGCATCTACTTTTTGATTAGCGAATCGTCCAGTTGGC⁴⁰⁰
TGGTCAGTTCGTTAATATCGCCAAACCATAAAATCCAGCGTCACGGCGCT⁴⁵⁰
TCATCGAGCAATAAACGATGGCAACCGGGCAAGGGCATTGGCCACTGCGC⁵⁰⁰
CTGAAGTTGTTCTGCCCACGGAGCCAGTTCGGCCAGTGTGATGCGCTA⁵⁵⁰
AGGCTAAATCCGCACGGGTGAGGGGAAATTTCTCAAACTAATGAAATGT⁶⁰⁰
AAGCGTTGT.AATTGCGCTTGCGGATGCGCTTCGCGAAACTGATCAAAATGC⁶⁵⁰
CTGCCATAGCGTCAGGAAGTTTAAATCCGGTGCCGAAGCCGCTCTCTGCTA⁷⁰⁰
CCACAAACAGAGGATGTGGATGCTCAGGAAAGCGTACCTCTAATTGGTTG⁷⁵⁰
CCTCCCAGAAAAACATAACCGCTCTCTTCCAGCCCGTTATCGTTGGAAAA⁸⁰⁰
ATAGAC.ATCGTCAAAATCTCGGGAACAGGTGTACCCTCAGCATTAAATT⁸⁵⁰
CGAGGTGGCAGGTTGTATGGAGTAGTGTTCACGTAAGTTACTCGTCTT⁹⁰⁰
ACAGGCGGTGGCTCGATCTTAGCGATGTGTGAAGGCTGCGCAAATTTCT⁹⁵⁰
CTATTAATGGCTGATCGGACTTGTTCGGCGTACAAGGTACGCTATTGT¹⁰⁰⁰
GCATTGAAAACCTTACTCTATGTGCGACTTACAGAGGTATTGAATGAAACG¹⁰⁵⁰
TGCAGTGATTACTGGCTGGGCATTGTTTCCAGCATCGGTAATAACCAGC¹¹⁰⁰
AGGAAGTCCTGGCATCTCTCGGTGAAGGACGTTACGGGATCACTTTCTCT¹¹⁵⁰
CAGGAGCTGAAGGATTCGGCATGCGTAGCCACGCTCGGGGCAACGTAAA¹²⁰⁰
ACTGGATACCACTGGCCTCATTGACCGCAAAGTTGTGCGCTTATGAGCG¹²⁵⁰

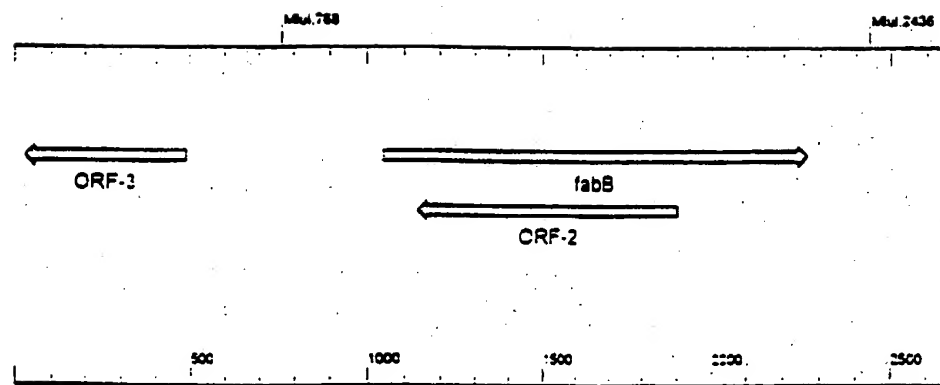
FIGURE 13

ACGCATCCATTTATGCATTCCTTTCTATGGAGCAGGCAATCGCTGATGCG¹³⁰⁰
GGCCTCTCTCCGGAAGCTTACCAGAATAACCCGGCGGTTGGCCTGATTGC¹³⁵⁰
ACGTTCCGGCGGCGGCTCCCCGCGTTTCCAGGTGTCGGCGCTGACGCAA¹⁴⁰⁰
TGCGCGGCCCCGCGGCGCTGAAAGCGGTGGCCCGTATGTGGTCACCAAA¹⁴⁵⁰
CGGATGGCATCCGGCGTTTCTGCCTGCCTCGCCACCCCGTTTAAAATTCA¹⁵⁰⁰
TGGCGTTAACTACTCCATCAGCTCCGCGTGTGCGACTTCGGCACACTGTA¹⁵⁵⁰
TCGGTAACGCAGTAGAGCAGATCCAAC TGGGCAAACAGGACATCGTGTTT¹⁶⁰⁰
GCTGGCGGCGGCGGAAGAGCTGTGCTGGGAAATGGCTTGCGAATTCGACGC¹⁶⁵⁰
AATGGGTGCGCTGTCTACTAAATACAACGACACCCCGGAAAAAGCCTCCC¹⁷⁰⁰
GTACTTACGACGCTACCGTGACCGTTTCGTTATCGCTGGCGGCGCGCGT¹⁷⁵⁰
ATGGTAGTGGTTGAAGAGCTGGAACACGCGCTGGCGCGTGGTGCTCACAT¹⁸⁰⁰
CTATGCTGAAATCGTTGGCTACGGCGCAACCTCTGATGGTGACAGACATGG¹⁸⁵⁰
TTGCTCCGTCTGGCGAAGGGCGAGTACGCTGCATGAAGATGGCGATGCAT¹⁹⁰⁰
GGCGTTGATACCCCAATCGATTACCTGAACTCCCACGGTACTTCGACTCC¹⁹⁵⁰
GGTTGGCGACGTGAAAGAGCTGCCAGCTATCCGTGAAGTGTTGGCGGATA²⁰⁰⁰
AGAGCCCGGCGATTCTGCAACCAAAGCCATGACCGGTCACTCTCTGGGC²⁰⁵⁰
GCTGCTGGCGTACAGGAAGCTATCTACTCTCTGCTGATGCTGGAACACGG²¹⁰⁰
CTTTATCGCCCCGAGCATCAACATTGAAGAGCTGGACGAGCAGGCTCGCG²¹⁵⁰
GTCTGAACATCGTGACCGAAACGACCGATCGCGAACTGACCACCGTTATG²²⁰⁰
TCTAACAGCTTCGGCTTCGGCGGCACCAACGCCACGCTGGTAATGCGCAA²²⁵⁰
GCTGAAAGATTAAATTCGCAGTAGGTCCGAGTAGACCGCCAGCCTCGCAT²³⁰⁰
CCGACGTTACGCGCCAATGCGGCCTCCGGCACTAACGCAAAAGGGAACCT²³⁵⁰
GATGGTTCCTTTTTCACATCATTGACAATCGCCGCCAGTTCAGGCAAA²⁴⁰⁰
CTTCCCGCTTTGTGCAATTCCTTCTGAAAAGACGTACGCGTTAAATCCTG²⁴⁵⁰
CCAACGCACCGTAACCTGAAACCAGAGAGATGAGACGGGGATACTCCTC²⁵⁰⁰
GCCTTGCGCTGCATTCTGGAGTAATGCATGACTGCTGTAAGCCAAACCGA²⁵⁵⁰
AACACGATCTTTCTGCCAATTTTTCGCTTTTCCGCATCGCTTTTTCGGG²⁶⁰⁰

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TTTTCTTCACCTACATGACCCGTAGGGTTGCCGTTGCCGGTTATCCCGC³⁵⁰
TGTGTGTT³⁵⁴



090396FA.SEQ (2658 bps)

FIGURE 14

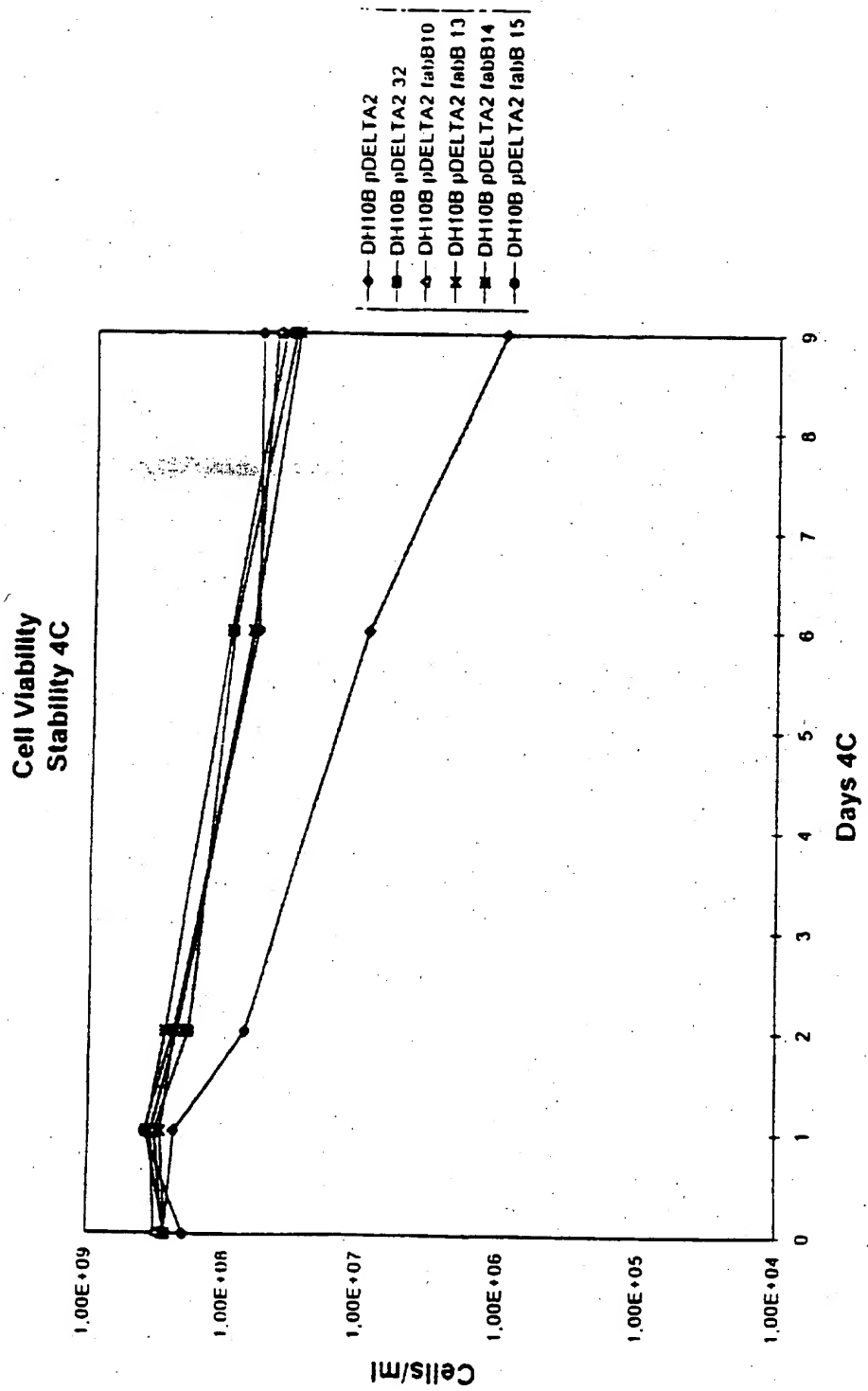


FIGURE 15

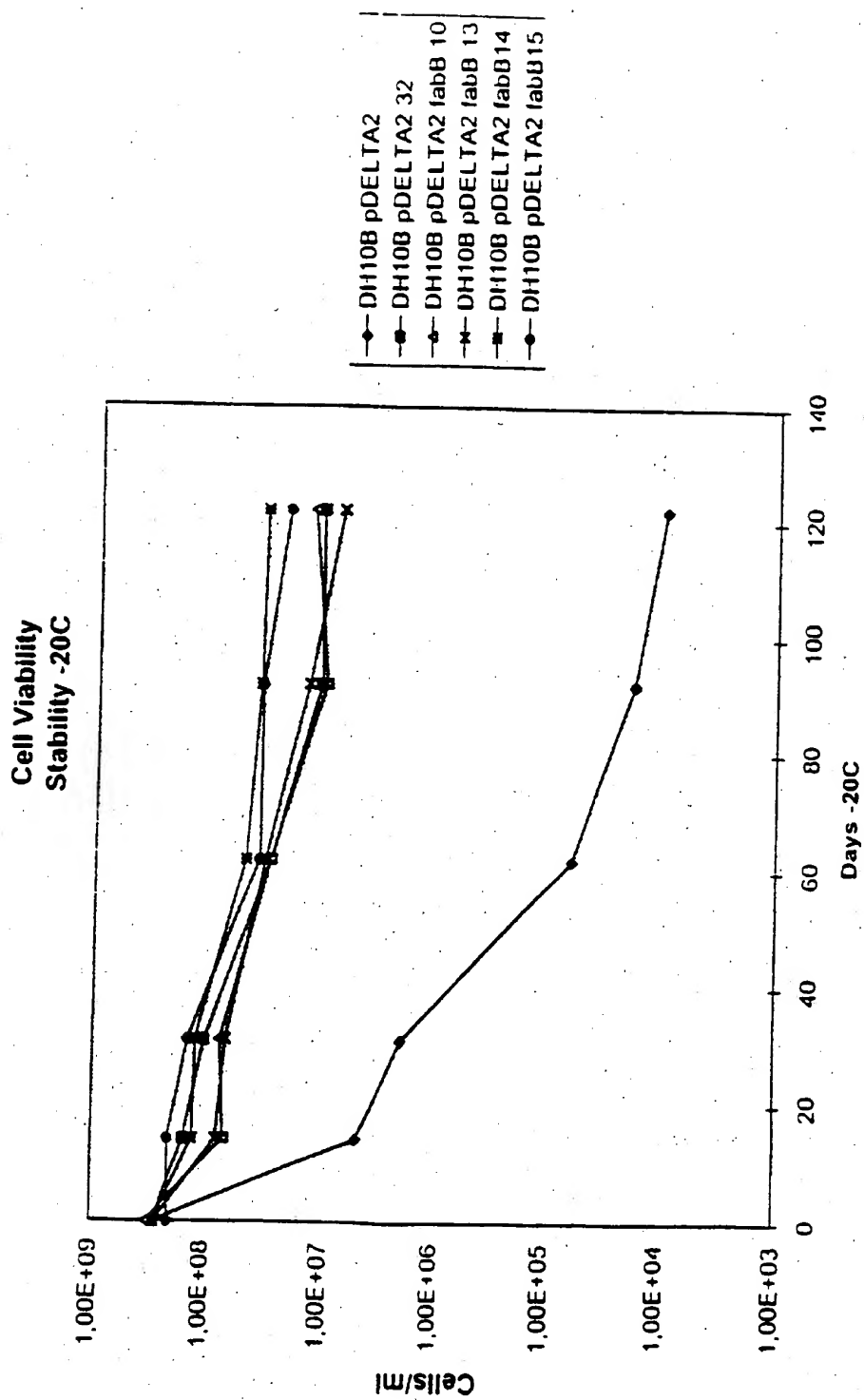


FIGURE 16

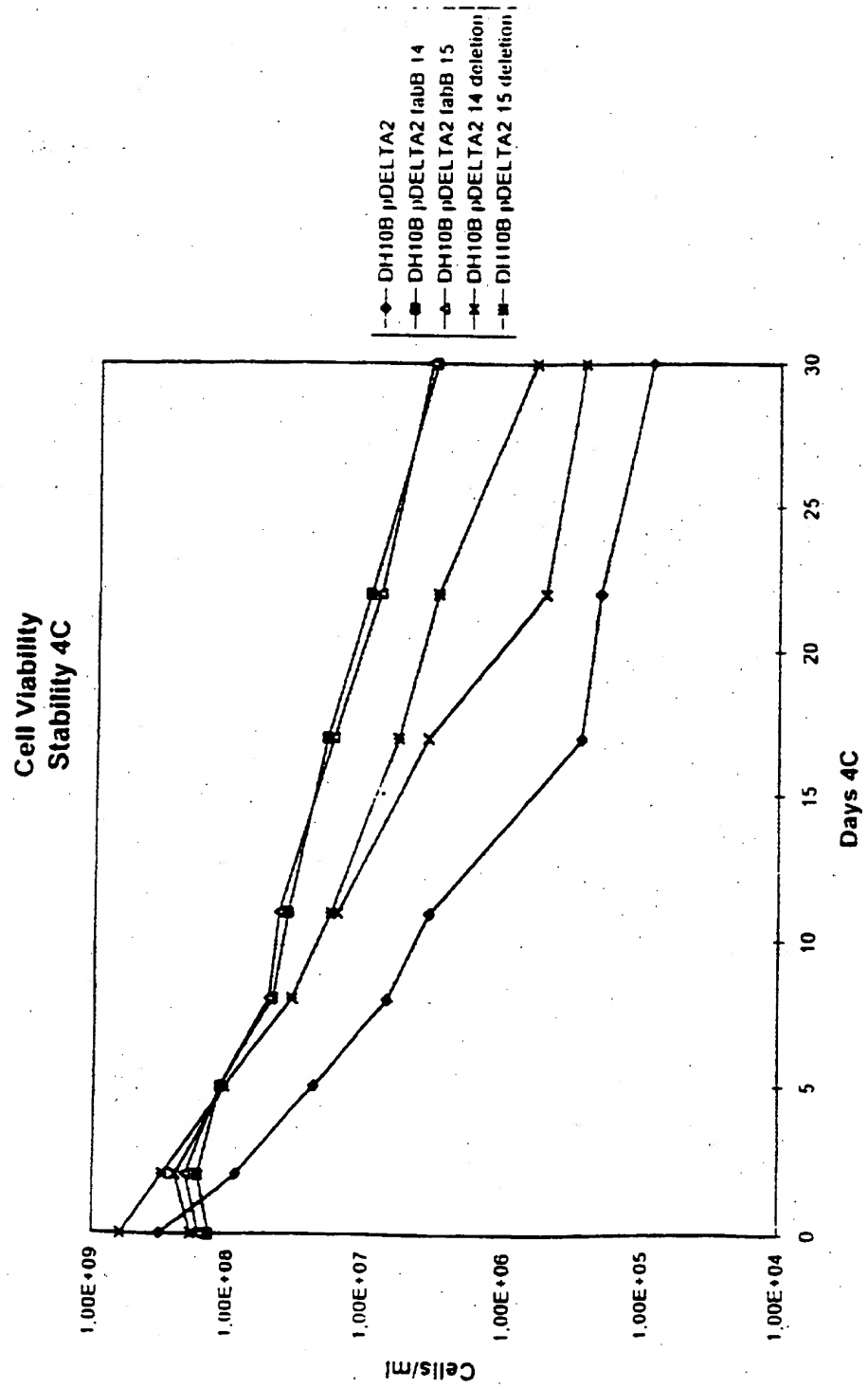


FIGURE 17

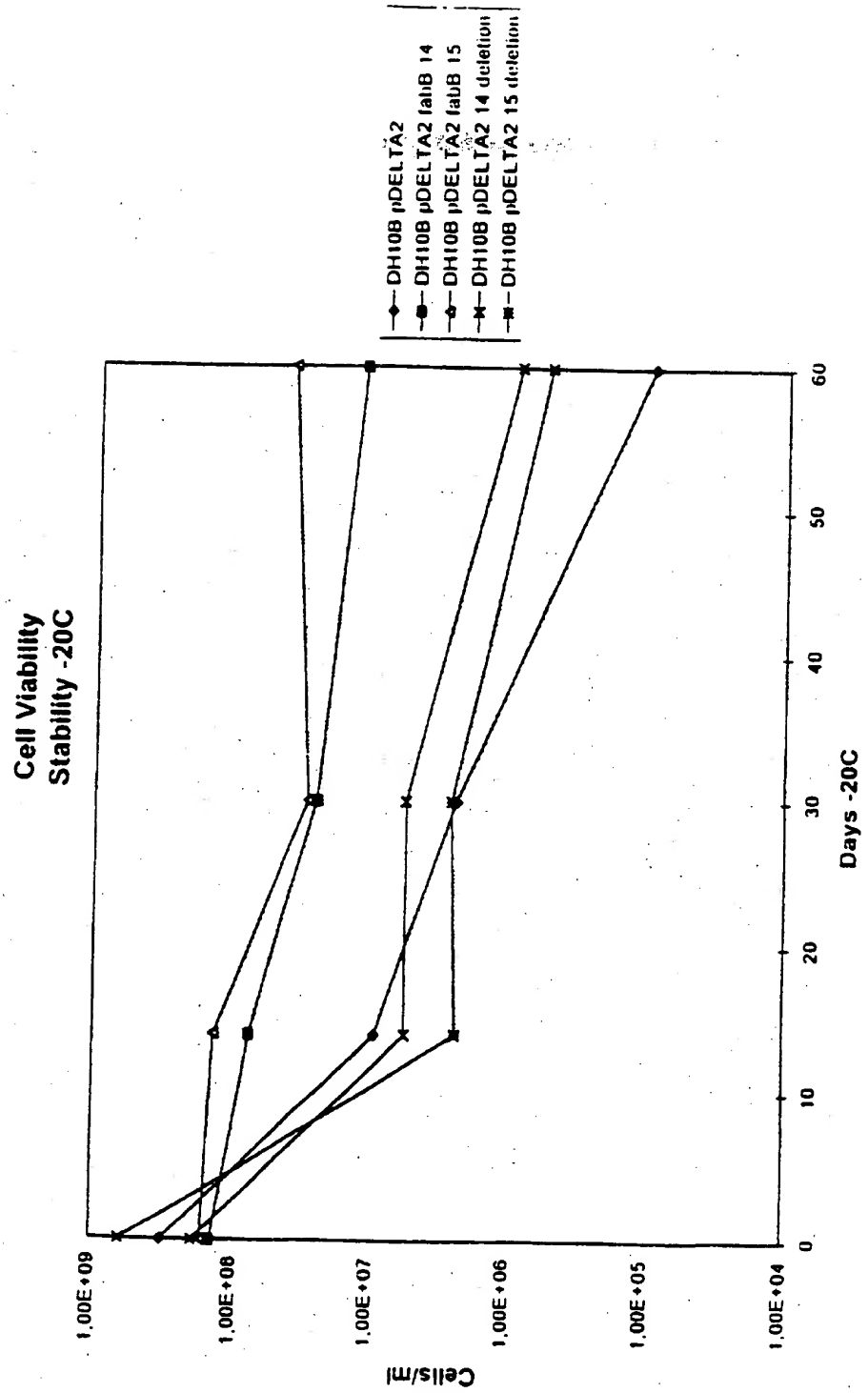


FIGURE 18

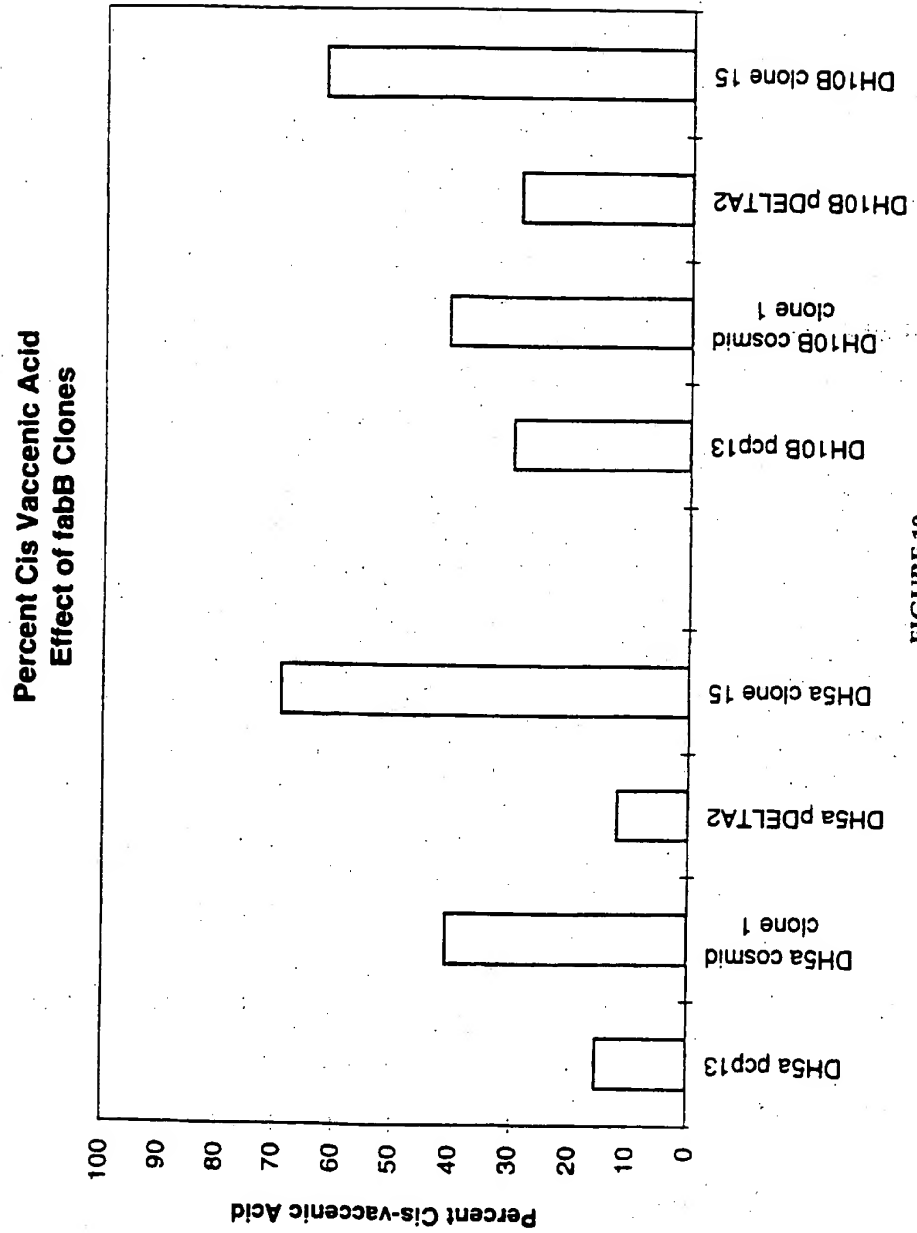


FIGURE 19

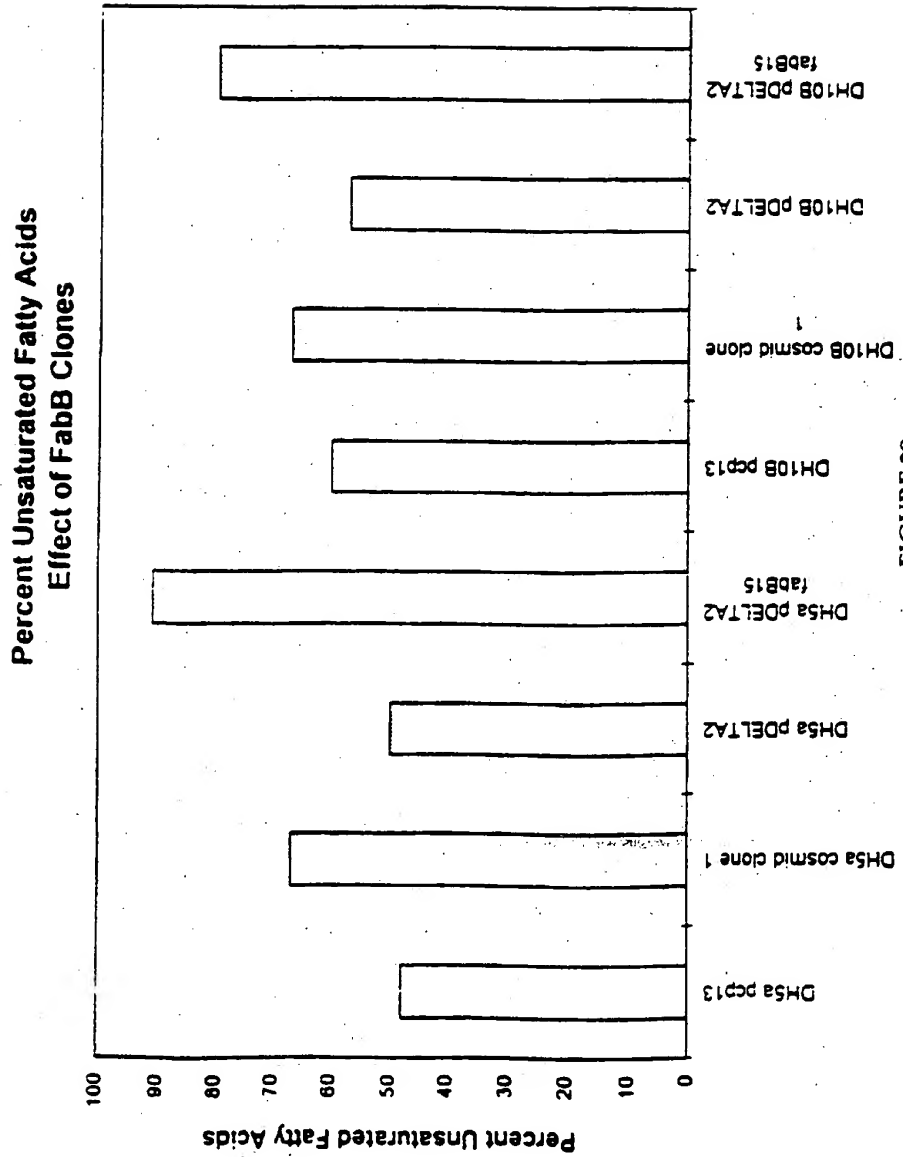


FIGURE 20

24 / 3 2

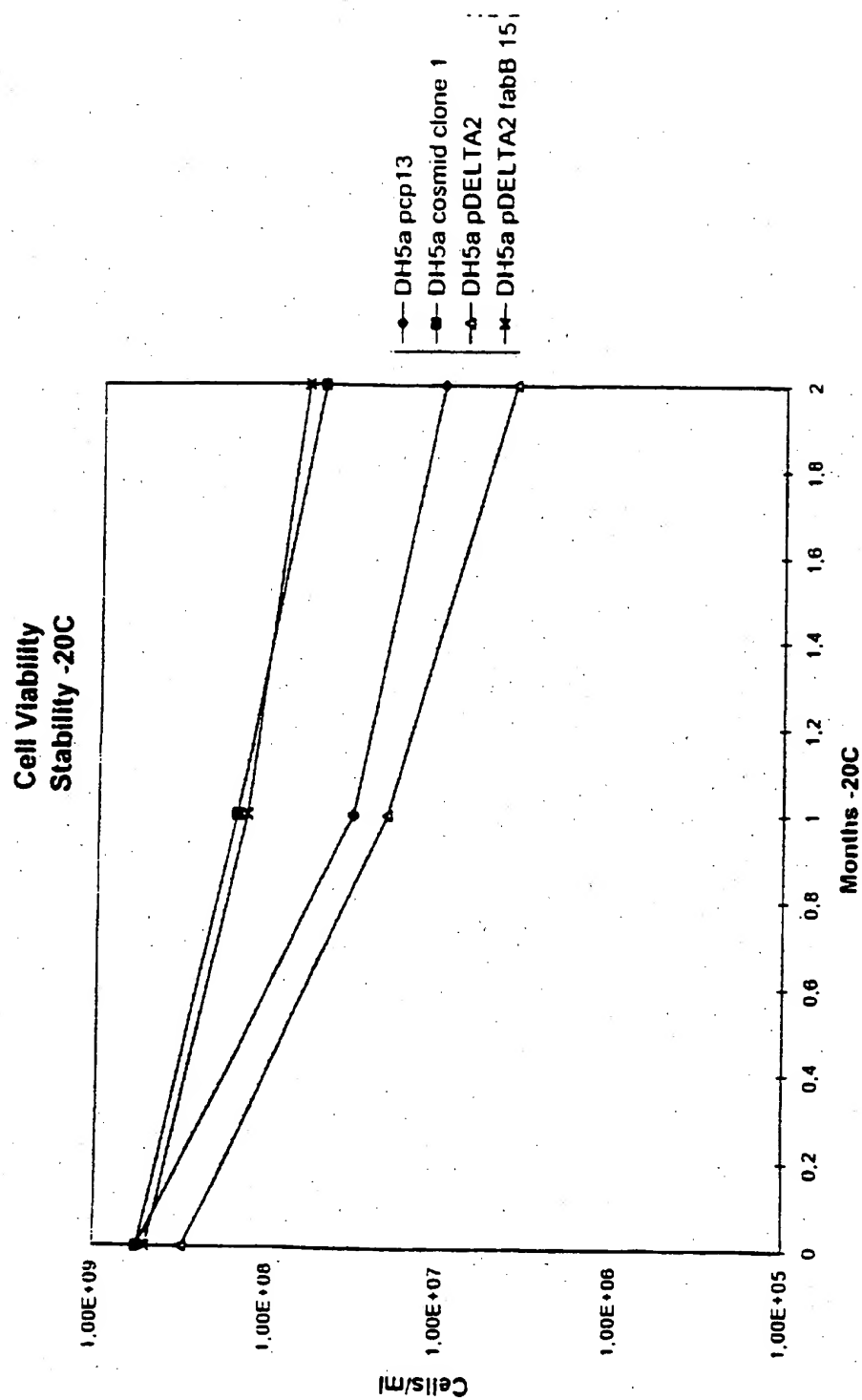


FIGURE 21

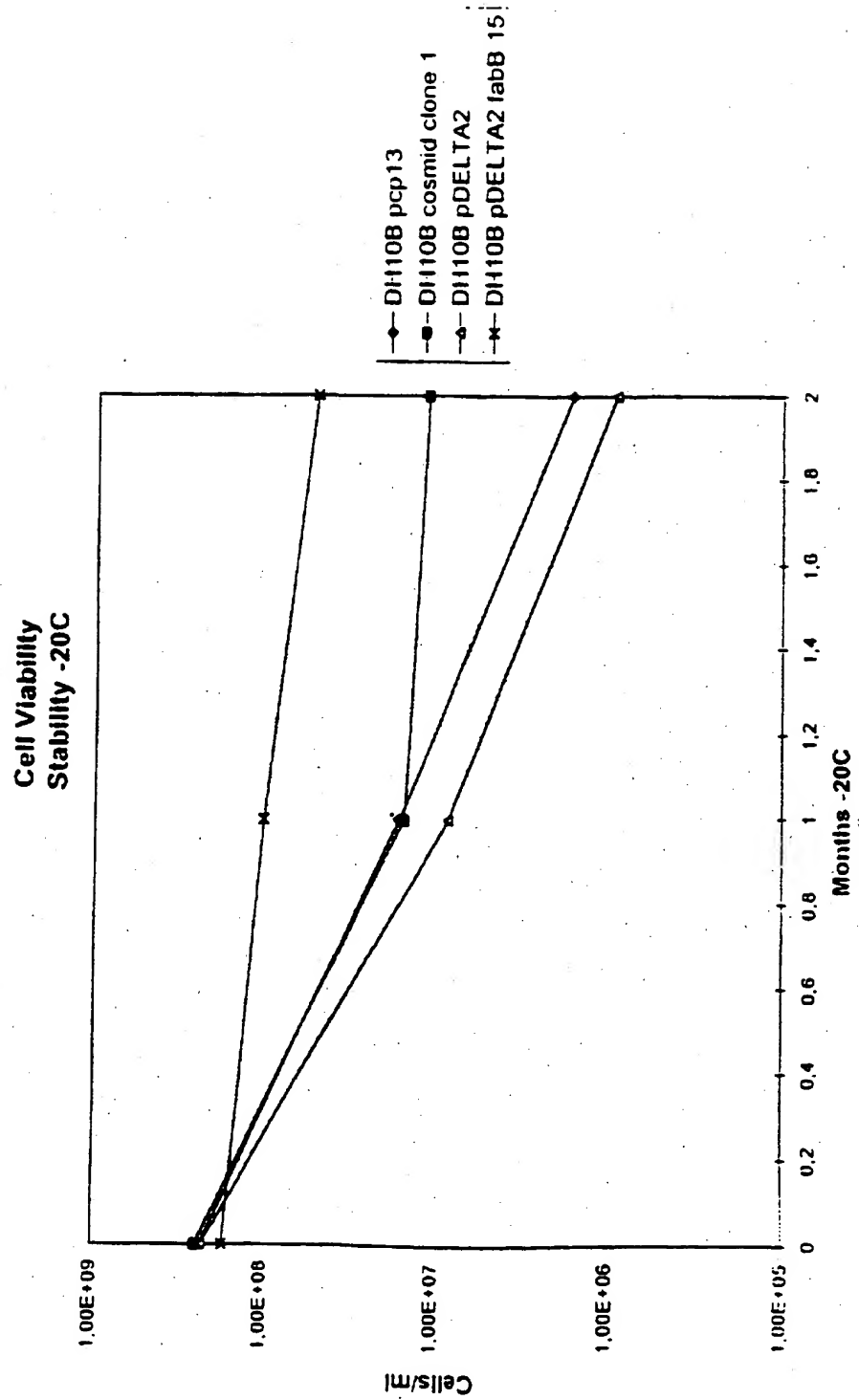


FIGURE 22

Correlation Between Percent Unsaturated Fatty Acids and Cell Survival at -20C

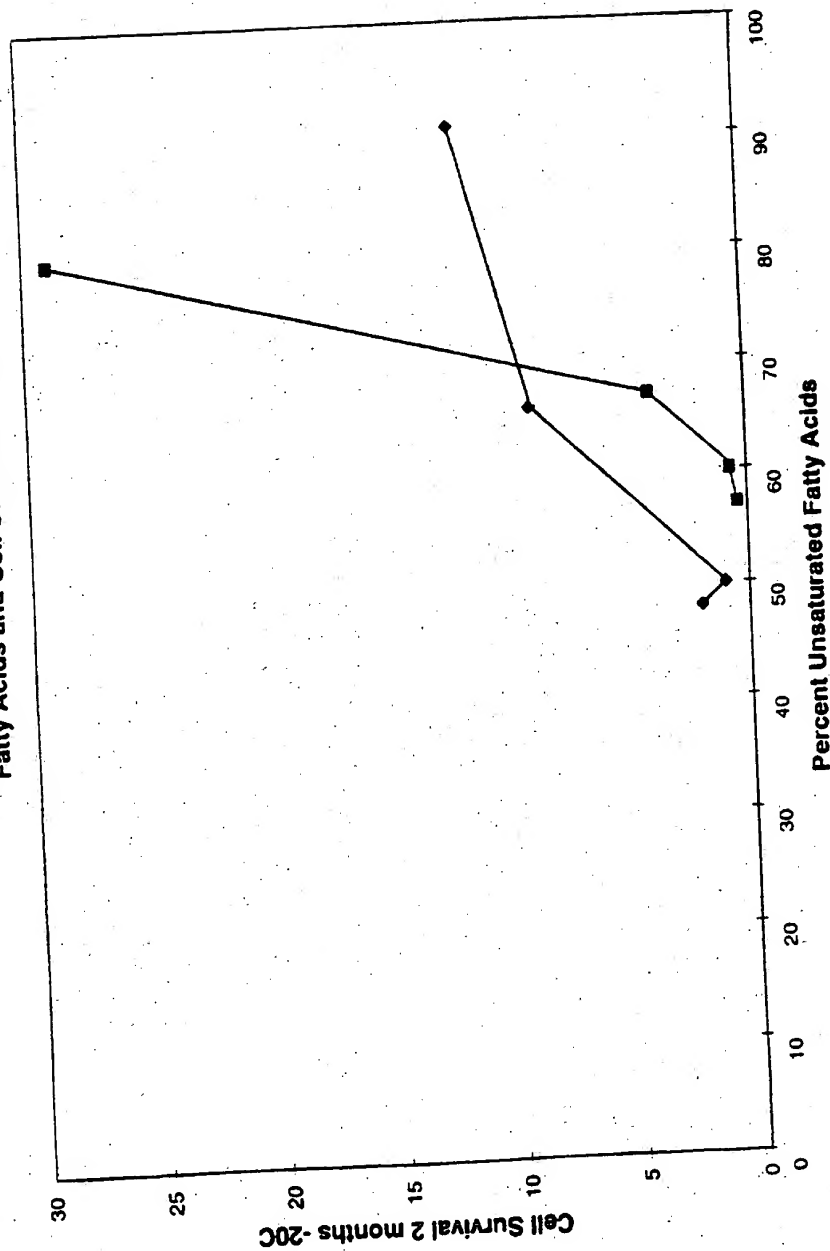


FIGURE 23

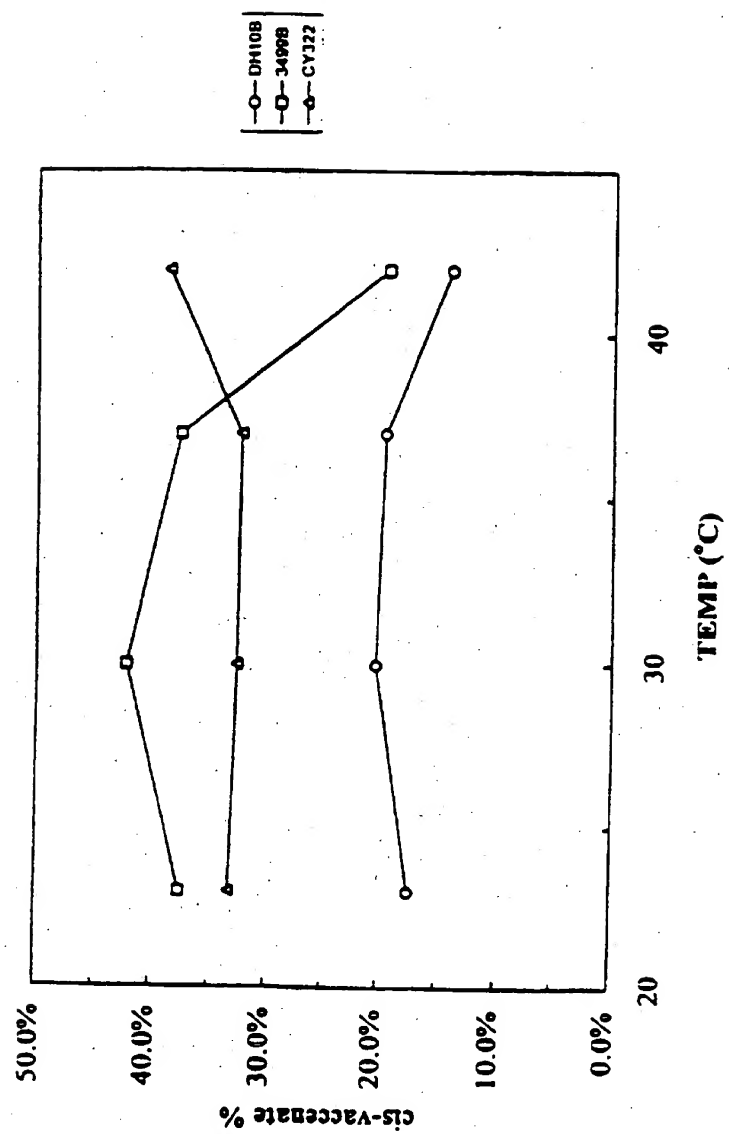


FIGURE 24

**Percent Unsaturated Fatty Acids
Effect of Growth Temperature
in DH10B and SB3499B**

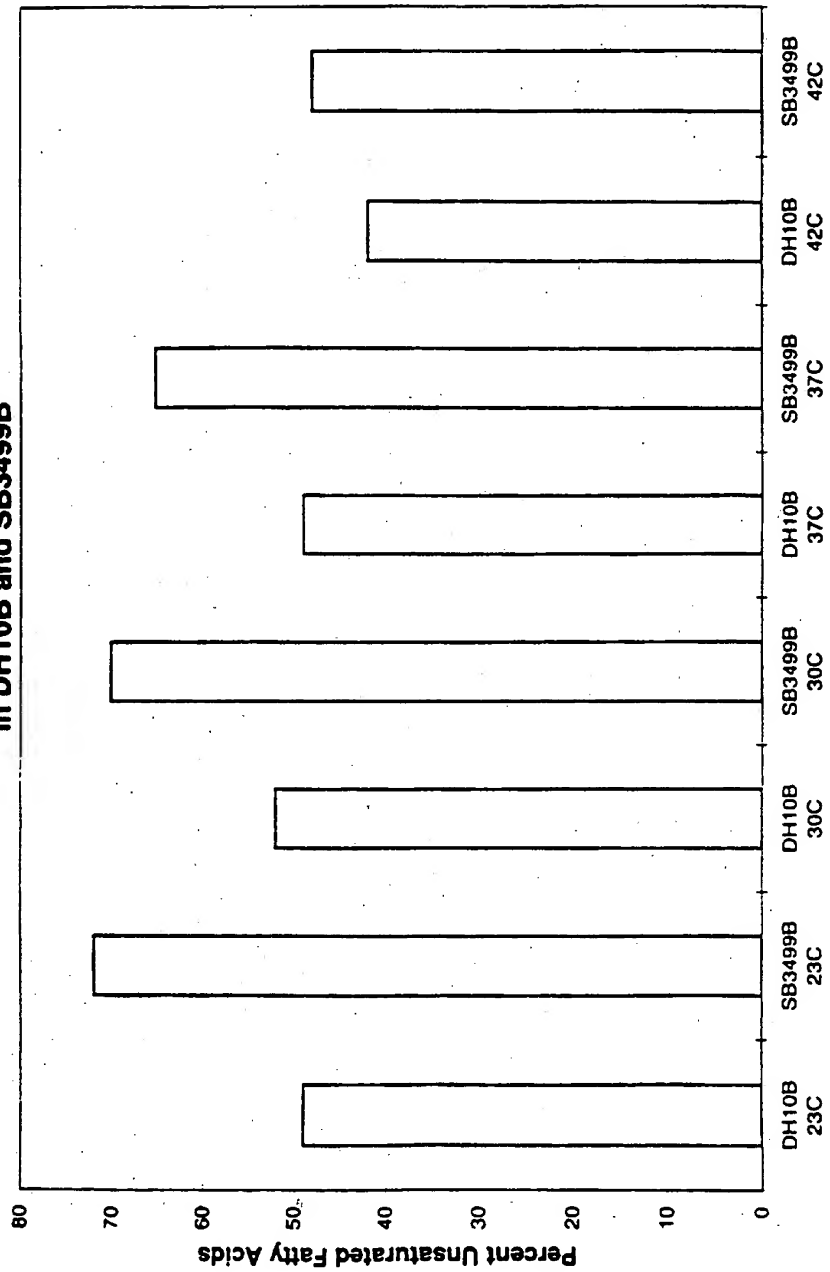


FIGURE 25

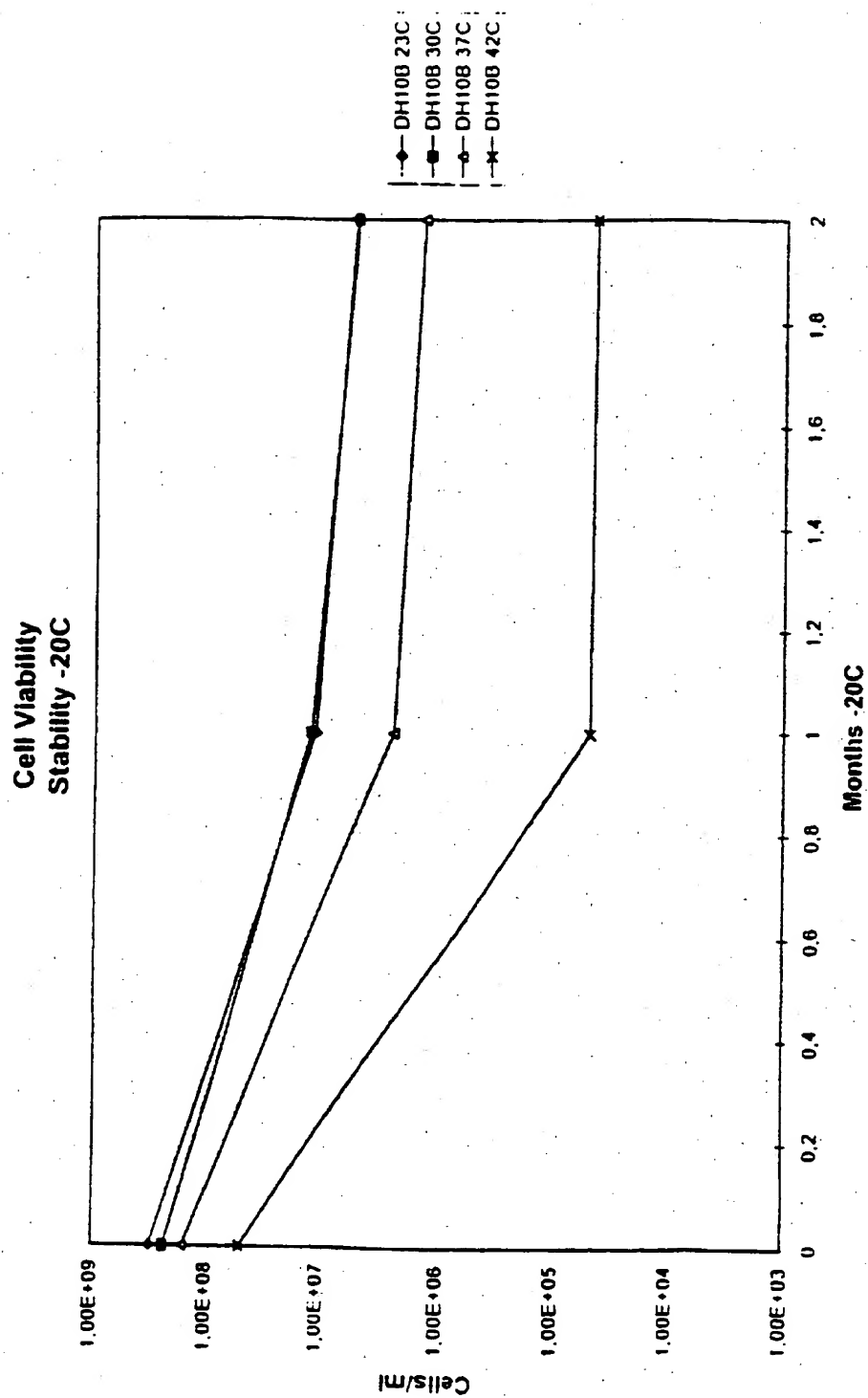


FIGURE 26

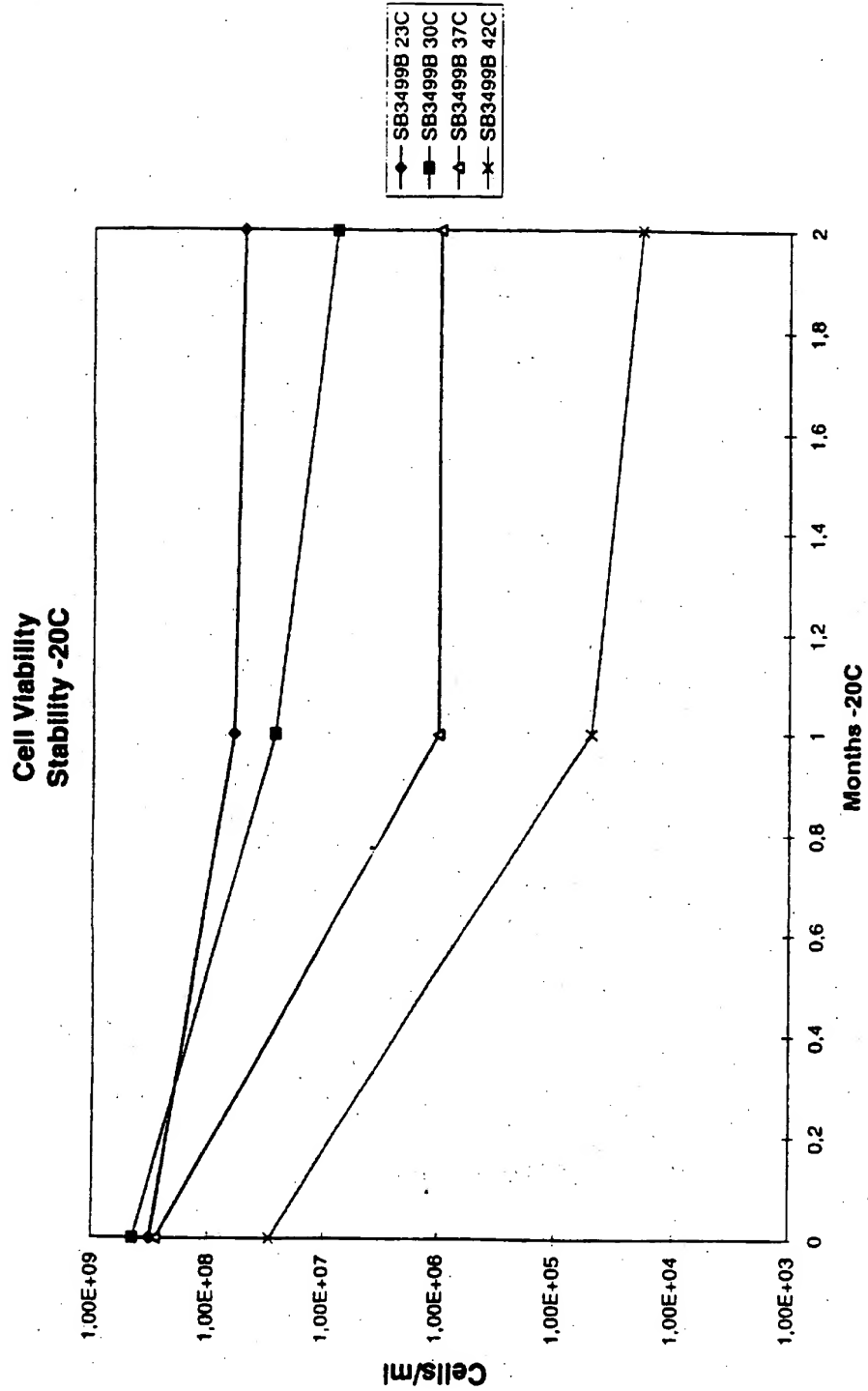


FIGURE 27

Correlation Between Percent Unsaturated Fatty Acids and Cell Survival -20C

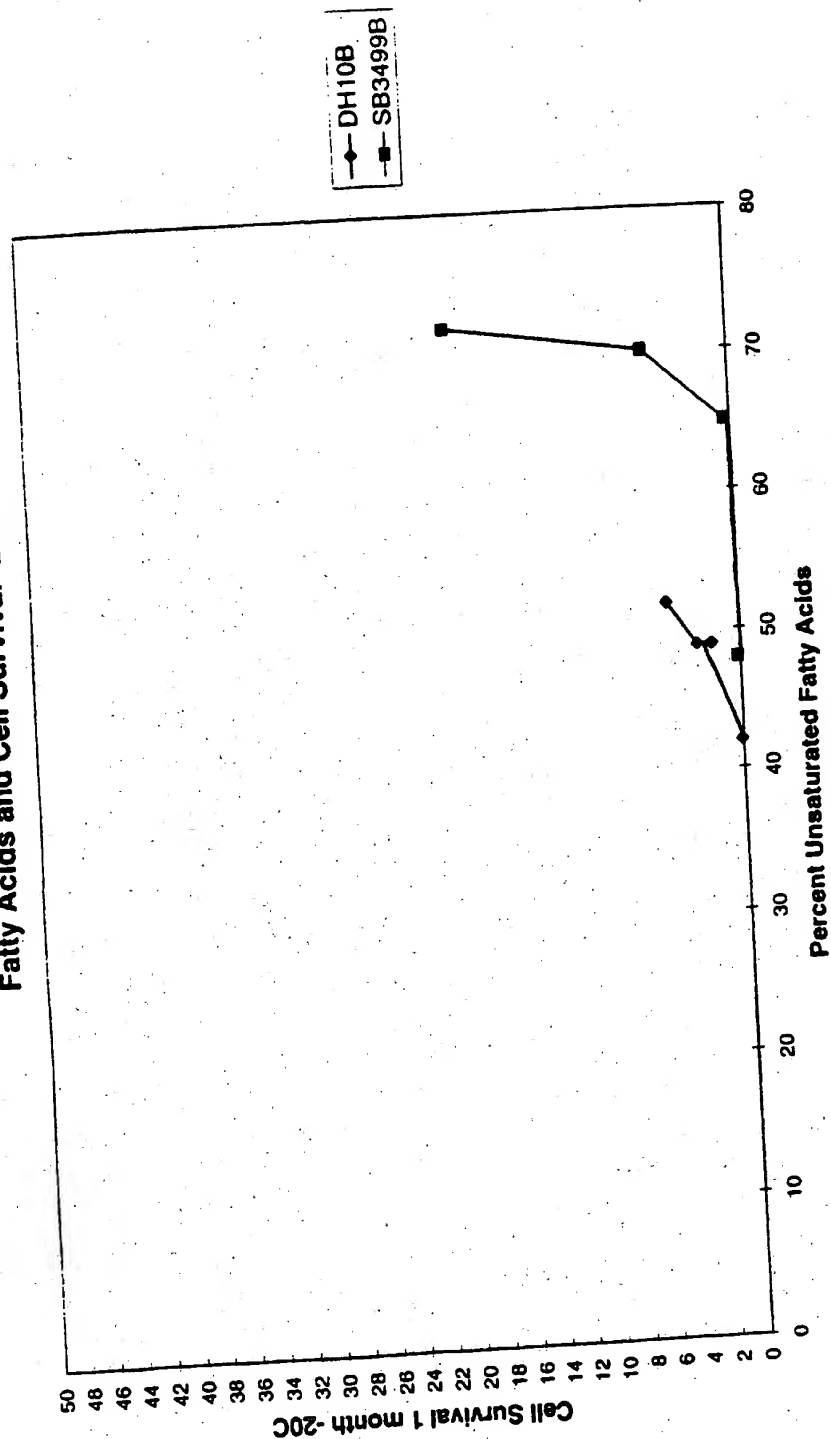


FIGURE 28

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/04967

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A61K 39/02, 39/108; C12N 15/00, 15/09, 15/63, 15/70, 15/74, 1/20
US CL : 424/234.1, 257.1; 435/172.1, 172.3, 252.3, 320.1
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 424/234.1, 257.1; 435/172.1, 172.3, 252.3, 320.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
STIC

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
APS, CAPLUS, MEDLINE, BIOSIS, EMBASE, SCISEARCH, WPIDS, DIALOG

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE MENDOZA et al. Thermal Regulation of Membrane Fluidity in Escherichia coli. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 25 February 1983, Vol. 258, No. 4, pages 2098-2101, especially page 2098.	1-13, 15-27, 29-44 ----- 14, 28
Y		
X	ULRICH et al. Genetic and Biochemical Analyses of Escherichia coli Mutants Altered in the Temperature-Dependent Regulation of Membrane Lipid Composition. Journal of Bacteriology. April 1983, Vol. 154, No. 1, pages 221-230, especially page 229	1-13, 15-27, 29-44 ----- 14, 28
Y		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

A	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	+	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principles or theory underlying the invention
B	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	-	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
L	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	-	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
O	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
P	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	+A*	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 MAY 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

08 JUL 1997

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Authorized officer
VERLENE RYAN

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US97/04967

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WADA et al. Contribution of Membrane Lipids to the Ability of the Photosynthetic Machinery to Tolerate Temperature Stress. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. May 1994, Vol. 91, No. 10, pages 4273-4277, especially Abstract.	1-5, 13, 15-19, 27, 29-36, 40-44
A	GOMBOS et al. Unsaturation of Fatty Acids in Membrane Lipids Enhances Tolerance of the Cyanobacterium Synechocystis PCC6803 to Low-temperature Photoinhibition. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 15 October 1992, Vol. 89, No. 20, pages 9959-9963, see entire document.	1-44
A	CRONAN, J.E. JR. Thermal Regulation of the Membrane Lipid Composition of Escherichia coli. Journal of Biological Chemistry. 10 September 1975, Vol. 250, No. 17, pages 7074-7077, see entire document.	1-44
A	US 4,981,797 A (J.A. JESSEE) 01 January 1991, Abstract.	1-44
A	REUSCH et al. Poly-B-Hydroxybutyrate Membrane Structure and Its Relationship to Genetic Transformability in Escherichia coli. Journal of Bacteriology. November 1986, Vol. 168, No. 2, pages 553-562, see entire document.	1-44